DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 280 741 SE 047 905

AUTHOR Embry, Lynn
TITLE Scientific Encounters of the Endangered Kind. Reading Activities That Explore Nature's Endangered Species. Grades 4-7.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-86653-353-2
PUB DATE 86
NOTE 67p.; Black and white illustrations.
AVAILABLE FROM Good Apple, Inc., P.O. Box 299, Carthage, IL 62321-0299 ($6.95; GA694).
PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom Use - Guides (For Teachers) (052)

EDRS PRICE MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Conservation (Environment); Ecological Factors; Elementary Education; *Elementary School Science; *Endangered Species; Individualized Reading; Reading Comprehension; Reading Games; *Reading Instruction; Reading Skills; *Science Activities; Science Education; *Science Instruction; Wildlife
IDENTIFIERS *Environmental Education Programs

ABSTRACT

Many forms of wildlife are being threatened by changing ecological conditions, pollution, pesticides, human carelessness, and conditions. Efforts are being made to preserve endangered wildlife species. This document provides a partial listing of endangered and threatened species of mammals, birds, and reptiles in North America and its nearby oceans. Short articles about many of these animals are presented to students as reading exercises. This information is intended to provide students with a better understanding of the plight each animal faces and what is being done to help each species avoid extinction. Each reading selection is followed by a skills check to determine the student's comprehension of the main ideas, details, vocabulary, and dictionary skills. A related activity page also accompanies each selection. These include puzzles, games, trivia questions, and other individual activities. Information on the Endangered Species Act of 1973 is included, along with an answer key to all of the skills checks and activities. (TW)

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A Good Apple Activity Book for Grades 4-7

GOOD APPLE

SCIENTIFIC ENCOUNTERS OF THE ENDANGERED KIND

Reading Activities That Explore Nature's Endangered Species

BY LYNN EMBRY

ILLUSTRATED BY NANCEE McCLURE

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Scientific Encounters of the Endangered Kind

by
Lynn Embry

Illustrated by Nancee McClure

Cover by Nancee McClure

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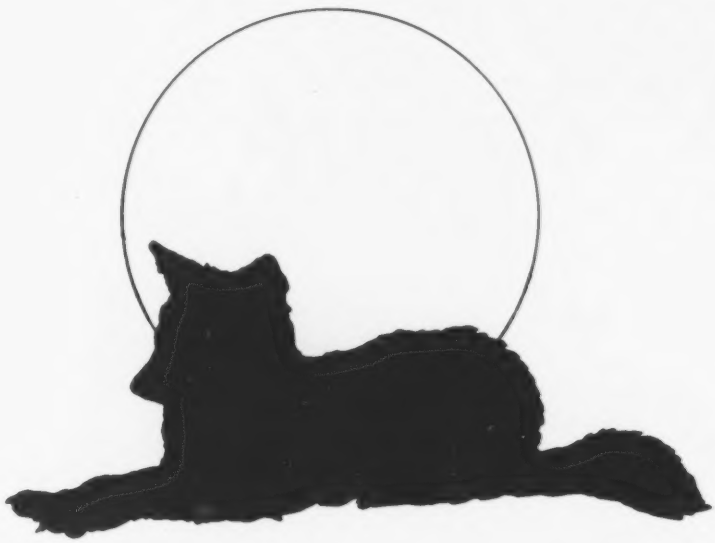

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ISBN No. 0-86653-353-2

Printing No. 987654321

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Introduction

The existence of many forms of wildlife is being threatened by changing ecological conditions, pollutants, pesticides, man's carelessness, and other conditions. Fortunately, efforts are being made to preserve endangered wildlife. This book features some of the mammals, birds, and reptiles officially listed by the U.S. Department of Interior as "endangered" species.

A consistent format is used in the presentation of each endangered creature. As students read about species, they will acquire information about some of America's endangered wildlife, learn of the plight each faces, and discover what is being done to help each species. Each selection is followed by a skills check to determine comprehension of the main idea, details, vocabulary, and dictionary skills. A related activity page accompanies every selection.

The significance of a lost species may not be fully comprehended until it is too late. Sadly, many forms of wildlife have already become extinct. Without our help, other species may perish. It is our challenge to come to their aid. Through knowledge, cooperation, and genuine concern for all wildlife, man may be better able to preserve the creatures that share the earth with him.

Endangered and Threatened Species of North America and Nearby Oceans*

MAMMALS

Common name	Range	Status
Bat, gray	Central and Southeastern U.S.A.	Endangered
Bat, Indiana	Eastern and Midwestern U.S.A.	Endangered
Bat, Ozark big-eared	U.S.A. (MO, OK, AR)	Endangered
Bat, Virginia big-eared	U.S.A. (KY, WV, VA)	Endangered
Bear, brown or grizzly	Canada, Western U.S.A.	Threatened
Bear, Mexican grizzly	Mexico	Endangered
Bison, wood	Canada, Northwestern U.S.A.	Endangered
Bobcat	Central Mexico	Endangered
Caribou, woodland	Canada, U.S.A. (AK, ID, ME, MI, MN, MT, NH, VT, WA, WI)	Endangered
Cougar, Eastern	Eastern North America	Endangered
Deer, Cedros Island mule	Mexico (Cedros Island)	Endangered
Deer, Columbian white-tailed	U.S.A. (WA, OR)	Endangered
Deer, key	U.S.A. (Southern Florida)	Endangered
Dugong	U.S.A. (Trust Territories)	Endangered
Ferret, black-footed	Western U.S.A., Western Canada	Endangered
Fox, Northern swift	U.S.A. (Northern Plains), Canada	Endangered
Fox, San Joaquin kit	U.S.A. (California)	Endangered
Jaguar	U.S.A. (TX, NM, AZ)	Endangered
Jaguarundi	U.S.A. (Texas, Arizona), Mexico	Endangered
Manatee, Florida	U.S.A. (Southeastern)	Endangered
Margay	U.S.A. (Texas)	Endangered
Mouse, Key Largo cotton	U.S.A. (Florida)	Endangered
Mouse, salt marsh harvest	U.S.A. (California)	Endangered
Ocelot	U.S.A. (TX, AZ)	Endangered
Otter, southern sea	West Coast U.S.A. (WA, OR, CA)	Threatened
Panther, Florida	U.S.A. (LA and AR east to SC and FL)	Endangered
Prairie dog, Utah	U.S.A. (Utah)	Threatened
Pronghorn, peninsular	Mexico (Baja California)	Endangered
Pronghorn, Sonoran	U.S.A. (Arizona), Mexico	Endangered
Rat, Morro Bay kangaroo	U.S.A. (California)	Endangered
Squirrel, Delmarva Peninsula fox	U.S.A. (DelMarva Peninsula to southeast Pennsylvania)	Endangered
Whale, blue	Oceanic	Endangered
Whale, bowhead	Oceanic (north latitudes)	Endangered
Whale, finback	Oceanic	Endangered
Whale, gray	North Pacific, Bering Sea	Endangered
Whale, humpback	Oceanic	Endangered
Wolf, gray	U.S.A. (48 states except MN), Mexico	Endangered
Wolf, red	Southeastern U.S.A. west to Central Texas	Endangered
Wood rat, Key Largo	U.S.A. (Florida)	Endangered

BIRDS

Common Name	Range	Status
Akepa, Hawaii	U.S.A. (Hawaii)	Endangered
Albatross, short-tailed	U.S.A. (AK, CA, HI, OR, WA) North Pacific, U.S.S.R., Japan	Endangered
Blackbird, yellow-shouldered	U.S.A. (Puerto Rico)	Endangered
Bobwhite, masked	U.S.A. (Arizona), Mexico (Sonora)	Endangered
Cahow	North Atlantic Ocean, Bermuda	Endangered
Condor, California	U.S.A. (OR, CA), Mexico (Baja California)	Endangered
Coot, Hawaiian	U.S.A. (Hawaii)	Endangered
Crane, Mississippi sandhill	U.S.A. (Mississippi)	Endangered
Crane, whooping	Canada, U.S.A., Mexico	Endangered
Creeper, Hawaii	U.S.A. (Hawaii)	Endangered
Curlew, Eskimo	Alaska and northern Canada to Argentina	Endangered
Dove, Palau ground	West Pacific Ocean, Palau Islands	Endangered
Duck, Hawaiian	U.S.A. (Hawaii)	Endangered
Eagle, Greenland white-tailed	Greenland and nearby islands	Endangered
Eagle, harpy	Mexico south to Argentina	Endangered
Eagle, bald	North America south to Mexico	Endangered
Eagle, bald	U.S.A. (WA, OR, MN, WI, MI)	Threatened
Falcon, American peregrine	Central Alaska across north central Canada to central Mexico; winters in South America	Endangered
Falcon, Arctic peregrine	Northern Alaska to Greenland; winters in Central and South America	Threatened
Falcon, peregrine	Worldwide, except Antarctica and most Pacific Islands	Endangered
Finch, Laysan	U.S.A. (Hawaii)	Endangered
Flycatcher, Palau fantail	West Pacific Ocean (Palau Islands)	Endangered
Goose, Aleutian Canada	U.S.A. (AK, CA, OR, WA), Japan	Endangered
Goose, Hawaiian	U.S.A. (Hawaii)	Endangered
Hawk, Hawaiian	U.S.A. (Hawaii)	Endangered
Honeycreeper, crested	U.S.A. (Hawaii)	Endangered
Kite, Everglade	U.S.A. (Florida)	Endangered
Mallard, Mariana	West Pacific, Guam, Mariana Islands	Endangered
Millerbird, Nihoa	U.S.A. (Hawaii)	Endangered
Parrot, Puerto Rican	U.S.A. (Puerto Rico)	Endangered
Pelican, brown	U.S.A. (Carolinas to TX, CA)	Endangered
Rail, California Clapper	U.S.A. (California)	Endangered
Shearwater, Newell's	U.S.A. (Hawaii)	Endangered
Shrike, San Clemente loggerhead	U.S.A. (California))	Endangered

Common Name	Range	Status
Sparrow, Cape Sable seaside	U.S.A. (Florida)	Endangered
Sparrow, San Clemente sage	U.S.A. (California)	Threatened
Stilt, Hawaiian	U.S.A. (Hawaii)	Endangered
Stork, wood	U.S.A. (CA, AZ, TX to Carolinas)	Endangered
Tern, California least	Mexico, U.S.A. (California)	Endangered
Thrush, large Kauai	U.S.A. (Hawaii)	Endangered
Warbler (wood), Bachman's	Southeastern U.S.A., Cuba	Endangered
Woodpecker, ivory-billed	U.S.A. (south central and southeastern), Cuba	Endangered
Woodpecker, red-cockaded	U.S.A. (south central and southeastern)	Endangered

REPTILES

Common Name	Range	Status
Alligator, American	Southeastern U.S.A.	Endangered
Boa, Mona	U.S.A. (Puerto Rico)	Threatened
Crocodile, American	U.S.A. (Florida), Mexico	Endangered
Gecko, Monito	U.S.A. (Puerto Rico)	Endangered
Iguana, Mona ground	U.S.A. (Puerto Rico: Mona Island)	Threatened
Lizard, blunt-nosed leopard	U.S.A. (California)	Endangered
Lizard, Island night	U.S.A. (California)	Threatened
Rattlesnake, New Mexican ridge-nosed	U.S.A. (New Mexico), Mexico	Threatened
Snake, Atlantic salt marsh	U.S.A. (Florida)	Threatened
Snake, eastern indigo	U.S.A. (AL, FL, GA, MS, SC)	Threatened
Snake, San Francisco garter	U.S.A. (California)	Endangered
Tortoise, desert	U.S.A. (UT, AZ, CA, NV), Mexico	Threatened
Turtle, green sea	Tropical and temperate seas; U.S.A. (FL and Pacific Coast of Mexico)	Endangered
Turtle, loggerhead sea	Tropical and temperate seas and oceans	Threatened
Turtle, Plymouth red-bellied	U.S.A.(Massachusetts)	Endangered

*Partial listing from *Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants,* July 20, 1984, 50 CFR 17.11 and 17.12. U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Protected by Law

Many animal and plant species throughout the world are on the brink of extinction. A species is considered "endangered" when its population is so low as to risk becoming extinct. A species nearing the endangered classification is considered a "threatened " species.

In the United States a species listed as threatened or endangered receives protection under Federal law. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 is a measure passed by Congress to help restore endangered populations. The federal government, the states, conservation groups, and many other groups are working together to help save our wildlife. Conservation and recovery programs have been initiated to help restore populations of endangered and threatened species.

In August 1984, more than three hundred American plants and animals and five hundred foreign species were officially listed as endangered or threatened. Many of these species were cited because their habitats were invaded by man, diseases, pollution, pesticides, and predators. Under legal protection endangered species have a better chance for survival. The federal government is responsible for making sure that any action it authorizes does not pose a threat to a listed species or its habitat. Research, wildlife management, and public information aimed at restoring wildlife so its existence is no longer threatened is the main objective of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Program.

Programs to save endangered species seem to be helping. The bald eagle, Key deer, American alligator, California condor, and other species are increasing in number. Other seriously threatened species are being helped in recovery programs by raising the young in captivity, cleaning the environment, protecting natural habitats, and introducing species to other suitable habitats. It is a difficult job, but as long as a species is threatened or endangered, there is hope. It is only when a species becomes extinct that it is too late to be concerned.

Name _____

Skills Check

Directions: Circle the letters of the correct responses in items 1-4.

1. The article suggests
   a. there is hope for endangered species
   b. endangered species will become extinct
   c. threatened species will become endangered

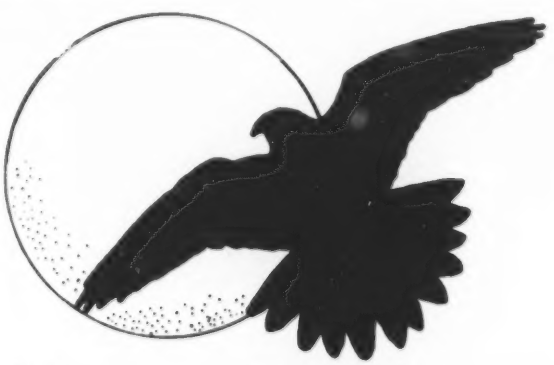
2. Programs to help conserve endangered species
   a. are not working well
   b. seem to be helpful for some species
   c. were discontinued in 1973

3. A word that means "the place where an animal naturally lives" is
   a. environment
   b. habitat
   c. population

4. The word "measure" in the article means
   a. a degree
   b. a way of determining an amount
   c. an action taken as a means to an end

5. Circle the suffix in each word below and write the root word in the blank.

a. extinction _____	j. recovery _____
b. population _____	k. raising _____
c. considered _____	l. listed _____
d. protection _____	m. helping _____
e. national _____	n. cited _____
f. increasing _____	o. seriously _____
g. captivity _____	p. nearing _____
h. introducing _____	q. becoming _____
i. concerned _____	r. suitable _____



Ways to Help

1. Find out what programs your state has for protecting endangered plants and animals. Display the information in a poster.

2. Notify your local game warden of any violation of wildlife laws in your area.

3. Make an informational poster on how endangered wildlife should be treated. Perhaps your school librarian will let you display your poster in the library.

4. Design a bumper sticker calling attention to the plight of America's endangered species.

5. Find out what federal laws exist for harming and possessing an endangered species.

6. Find out how a plant or animal gets on the endangered list. You may want to write to the Department of Interior for a copy of the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1982.

7. The whooping crane is the official symbol for endangered wildlife in the United States and Canada. Design a bulletin board using an illustration of the whooping crane to inform others about our endangered species.

8. Make a bookmark featuring your favorite threatened or endangered animal. Share your bookmarks with another class.

American Crocodile

The American crocodile, an endangered species, has been given legal protection in Everglades National Park since 1950. Smaller and thinner than the alligator, the American crocodile has a long, pointed snout and sharp teeth. Two teeth in the reptile's lower jaw protrude upward. The crocodile has an olive or gray hide, short legs, a long body, and a powerful tail. It averages 10 to 14 feet in length. As it floats or swims in the water, its eyes and nostrils can be seen above the water's surface. The crocodile has a valve that prevents water from going into its throat when it submerges. Its nostrils also have a valve to keep out water.

The diet of the American crocodile consists of fish, birds, insects, and land animals. Since it is unable to chew, the crocodile swallows its food in large chunks. Its food is then ground in the stomach by stones which were picked up from the stream bed. Powerful contractions of the stomach muscles help the stones grind the food.

The American crocodile is sensitive to cold temperatures. Water below 45°F can be fatal to the animal. When the weather turns cold, the animal hibernates.

Before becoming endangered, the American crocodile was sought for its hide. The skin was used in making handbags, shoes, and belts. The hide of the belly was popular for making expensive luggage.

To aid in its comeback, biologists have been gathering crocodile eggs and hatching them in incubators. Then the young animals are released into the wild. Hopefully, this will aid in increasing its population so the American crocodile may one day be removed from the endangered list.

Name _____

Skills Check

Directions: Circle the letters of the correct responses in items 1-4.

1. The selection is mainly about
   a. an endangered mammal
   b. an endangered reptile
   c. animals in Everglades National Park

2. The American crocodile
   a. has been given legal protection
   b. has been given no legal protection
   c. has become extinct

3. In the story the word "wild" means
   a. wilderness
   b. untame
   c. unruly

4. A synonym for "deadly" is
   a. sensitive
   b. endangered
   c. fatal

5. Find three words in the selection that come between each pair of dictionary guide words. Write the words on the blank beside the guide words.

   Guide Words

   a. share---size _____

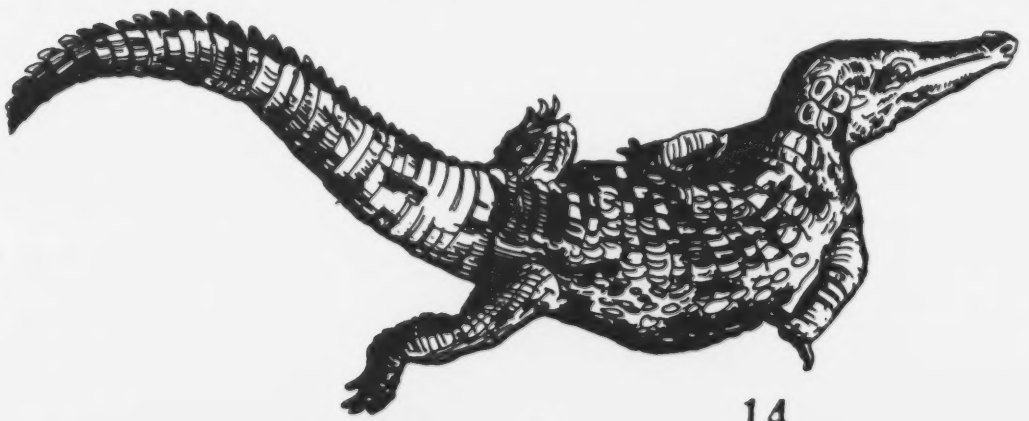
   b. present---proud _____

   c. leg---little _____

   d. there---threw _____

   e. special---store _____

   f. come---cope _____



Name _____

Crocodile Trivia

Directions: Do you know when the crocodile was first discovered in Florida? You can find out by crossing out the boxes before each false statement below. The remaining boxes contain the numerals of the year the crocodile was first found in Florida.

[1] 1. All American crocodiles are living in captivity.

[9] 2. The tail of the crocodile is useless.

[6] 3. Crocodiles cannot go underwater.

[1] 4. Crocodiles are usually smaller than alligators.

[3] 5. Crocodiles chew their food carefully.

[0] 6. The crocodile has a short snout.

[8] 7. The crocodile is a reptile.

[2] 8. Crocodiles are never vicious.

[7] 9. The female crocodile lays eggs.

[5] 10. Crocodiles are sensitive to cold water.

[4] 11. American crocodiles are not given legal protection.

[1] 12. The crocodile eats only plants and insects.

The crocodile was discovered in Florida in the year_____.

Bald Eagle

Chosen as the national symbol of the United States in 1782, the bald eagle needs our help to remain a powerful bird of prey. Today this majestic bird is officially listed as threatened in Washington, Oregon, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan and endangered in the rest of the continental United States. It has been protected by federal law since 1940 in the lower 48 states and since 1953 in Alaska.

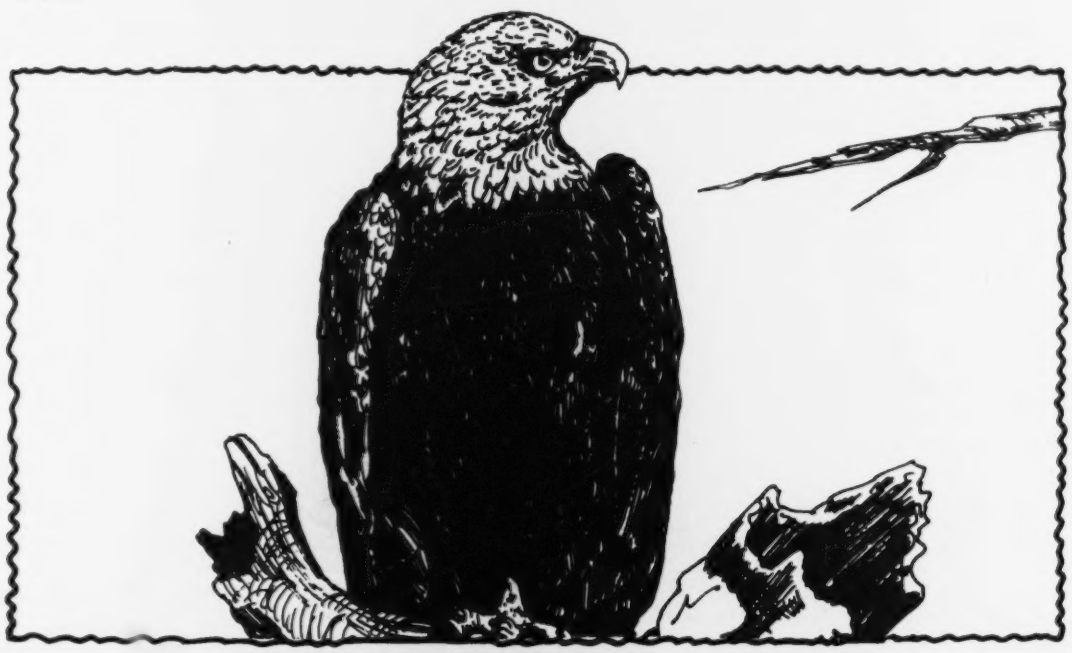
The bald eagle is named for its conspicuous white head. Well-developed for hunting, the bald eagle possesses keen eyesight; strong, swift wings; a hooked beak; and curved talons. The adult bald eagle has a brownish-black body with a white head and tail. Its wingspan measures 6 to 7½ feet.

The bald eagle eats mainly fish, but it doesn't always catch them. It often snatches fish from the osprey and other fishing birds. It also will capture birds and mammals for food.

The nest of the bald eagle is called an aerie. It is made of sticks, roots, weeds, and other plant material and often located on a cliff or in a high tree. The nest is very large, sometimes measuring 5 to 7 feet across and 10 feet deep. It may be used year after year by the same birds.

Several factors have caused the bald eagle population to be reduced to low numbers. Many eagles were shot by vandals. Others were electrocuted by power lines. It was also discovered that the food chain of the bald eagle contained chemical poisons. Many of the fish eaten by the bald eagle contained the pesticide DDT in their tissues. The consumption of DDT caused a problem with calcium production in the eggshells of the bald eagle's eggs. The shells were thin and cracked when incubation was attempted.

Through federal protection, the bald eagle is making a comeback. Hopefully, in the near future it can be removed from the endangered and threatened lists. Until then, it deserves our watchful attention and protection.



Name _____

Skills Check

Directions: Circle the letters of the correct responses in items 1-4.

1. The reproduction of the bald eagle has been affected by
   a. pesticides in the food chain
   b. the loss of its natural habitat
   c. an increase in predatory animals

2. The bald eagle is
   a. listed as threatened in five states
   b. listed as endangered in all of the continental U.S.
   c. listed as endangered in five states

3. A word that means "obvious to the eye" is
   a. watchful
   b. majestic
   c. conspicuous

4. A synonym for the word "sharp" is
   a. cracked
   b. keen
   c. hooked

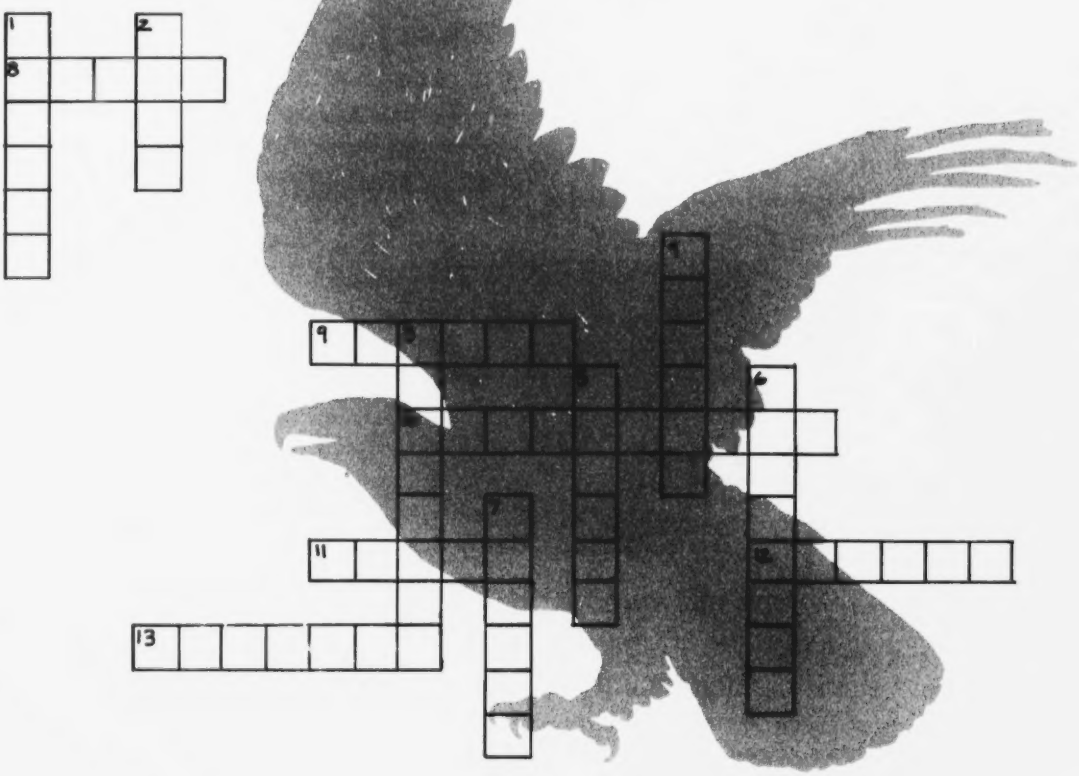
5. Write X on the blank by the word that has been correctly divided into syllables.

a. calcium	____cal ci um	____calc i um
b. chemical	____che mi cal	____chem i cal
c. snatches	____snatch es	____sna tch es
d. attention	____at ten tion	____att en tion
e. pesticide	____pest i cide	____pes ti cide
f. federal	____fed er al	____fe der al
g. conspicuous	____con spi cu ous	____con spic u ous
h. continental	____cont i nent al	____con ti nen tal

Name _____

Eagle Puzzler

Directions: The bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States, is a magnificent bird. Show your knowledge of the bald eagle by completing the puzzle below.



Clues

Down

1. Claws
2. Favorite food of the bald eagle
3. Department responsible for listing endangered and threatened species
4. Kind of bird the eagle takes food from
5. Name of baby eagle
6. External covering of the eagle
7. Color of eagle's feet

Across

8. Nest of the bald eagle
9. Used in making eagle's nest
10. Classification of bald eagle in Washington and five other states
11. Color of bald eagle's eggs
12. Shape of bald eagle's beak
13. A coin bearing likeness of bald eagle

Black-Footed Ferret

North America's rarest mammal is the black-footed ferret, a member of the weasel family. The black-footed ferret is a slender, furry animal about the size of a mink. It weighs approximately 1½ pounds and is about 22 inches long. Its fur is tan, yellow, or buff, and it has black feet. A black mask accents its face.

The black-footed ferret once lived on the Great Plains from Texas to Canada and west of the Rocky Mountains, but its population was probably never very abundant. Today, the remaining population of ferrets is in danger of vanishing completely. The last strongholds appear to be in South Dakota and Wyoming. In 1982 the discovery of twenty-two black-footed ferrets in Wyoming brought the total number of known ferrets to fifty-eight.

The black-footed ferret, a nocturnal animal, depends upon the prairie dog for its survival. Man did not realize the critical importance of the ferret's relationship with the prairie dog until the ferret population became threatened. The black-footed ferret preys upon the prairie dog for food, but it also looks to the prairie dog for protection. Old prairie dog burrows are used for shelter. The prairie dog population is also decreasing. Prairie dogs exist in "towns" consisting of miles of burrows. As prairie dogs were poisoned by ranchers and cattlemen, the ferret population began to be affected.

While the reduction of the prairie dog population may have been beneficial to cattlemen, it has almost eliminated the black-footed ferret. The problem is especially critical because man does not know how to feed and care for the black-footed ferret in captivity. The prognosis for its survival does not look good. However, scientists are working to locate and protect its natural habitat as the first step toward saving the black-footed ferret.

Name _____

Skills Check

Directions: Circle the letters of the correct responses in items 1-4.

1. The black-footed ferret
   a. depends upon the prairie dog for survival
   b. depends upon the weasel for survival
   c. depends upon cattlemen for survival

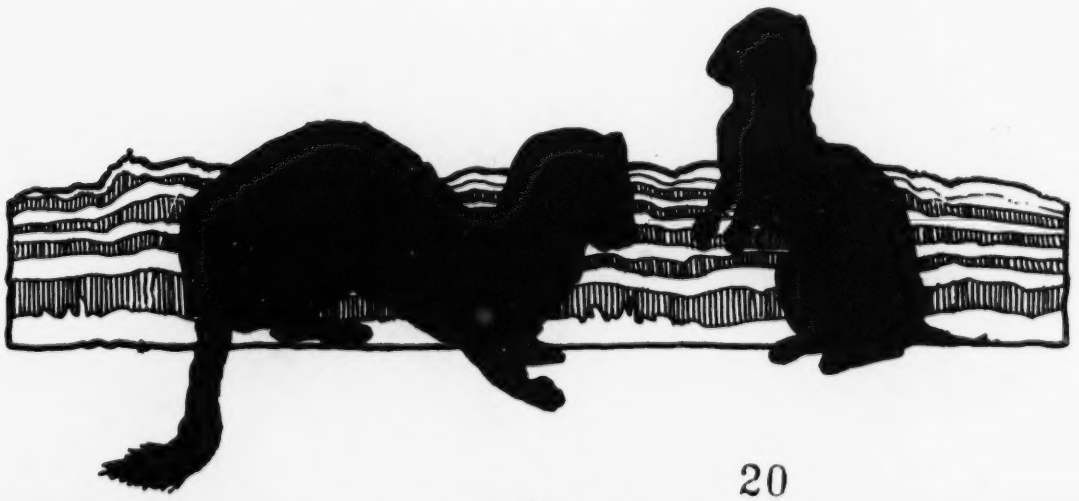
2. The article shows that
   a. it is too late to help the black-footed ferret
   b. the removal of one species can affect others
   c. man does not care about the black-footed ferret

3. A word that means "helpful" is
   a. abundant
   b. prognosis
   c. beneficial

4. A synonym for "destroyed" is
   a. affected
   b. threatened
   c. eliminated

5. If the guide words on a dictionary page are "enter" and "film," place X in the blank by each word that should appear on the same page.

____ a. feet	____ f. fur
____ b. ferret	____ g. face
____ c. feed	____ h. from
____ d. furry	____ i. existence
____ e. first	____ j. eliminated



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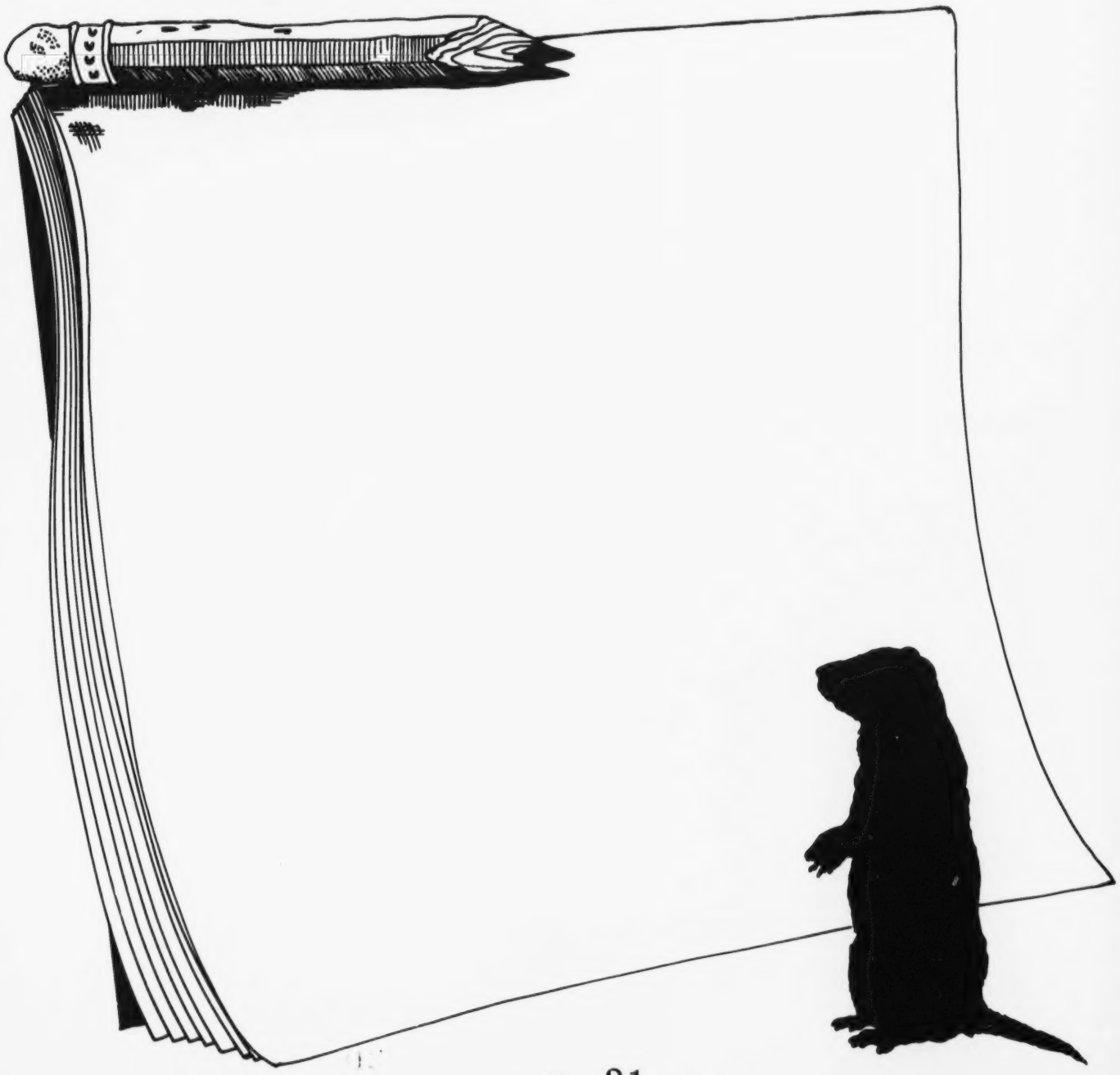
Tracking Down the Prairie Dog

The black-footed ferret depends upon the prairie dog for its continued ex
istence. The prairie dog, too, faces problems of survival. The Utah prairi
dog is listed as a threatened species, one that may become endangered
Write a report on the Utah prairie dog. Use the following words in you
report:

habitat	prey	burrows	enemies
existence	mammal	survival	environment



Blue Whale

Early explorers of the Antarctic waters often encountered the blue whale, the largest creature on earth. At first the huge whale was thought to belong to the fish family. Closer observation revealed the blue whale is actually a warm-blooded mammal. It has lungs and must come to the surface of the water for air. It bears its young alive and nurses the offspring.

The majestic mammal has long been a target of man. The frigid waters of the Antarctic became the hunting grounds for whalers in search of the blue whale. The whales sought the mammal for its oil, supple bone, meat, and blubber. During 1930-31 more than 25,000 blue whales were killed in the Antarctic. By 1965 more than 25,000 blue whales were killed in the Antarctic. By 1965 only 20 blues whales could be found in the region.

The blue whale gets its name from the bluish color of its back and shoulders. Its belly is a yellowish or whitish color. When grown, it weighs about 150 tons and averages 100 feet in length. Its skeleton alone weighs about 27 tons. The underside of its body is pleated like an accordion. Its eyes are located near the corners of its mouth. It has thick layers of blubber to protect it from the cold and to provide a storehouse of energy when food supplies are low. Since it is well-insulated, it does not have to expend a large amount of energy to stay warm.

Because its throat is only a few inches in diameter, the blue whale can only swallow very small fish and plants. Instead of teeth, it has hundreds of thin plates called baleen that filter the food from the water. Its diet consists mainly of tiny shrimp-like animals called krill. It fasts much of the winter, but during the summer the blue whale consumes about four tons of krill a day.

In 1946 the International Whaling Commission, or IWC, was formed to regulate whaling practices. This was a small step toward the conservation of whales. The blue whale still faces an uncertain future in its struggle to survive man, diseases, the killer whale, and the perils of weather.

Name _____

Skills Check

Directions: Circle the letters of the correct responses in items 1-5.

1. The story is mainly about
   a. life in the Antarctic waters
   b. the largest mammal on earth
   c. the preservation of whales

2. The blue whale is classified as
   a. a fish
   b. a reptile
   c. a mammal

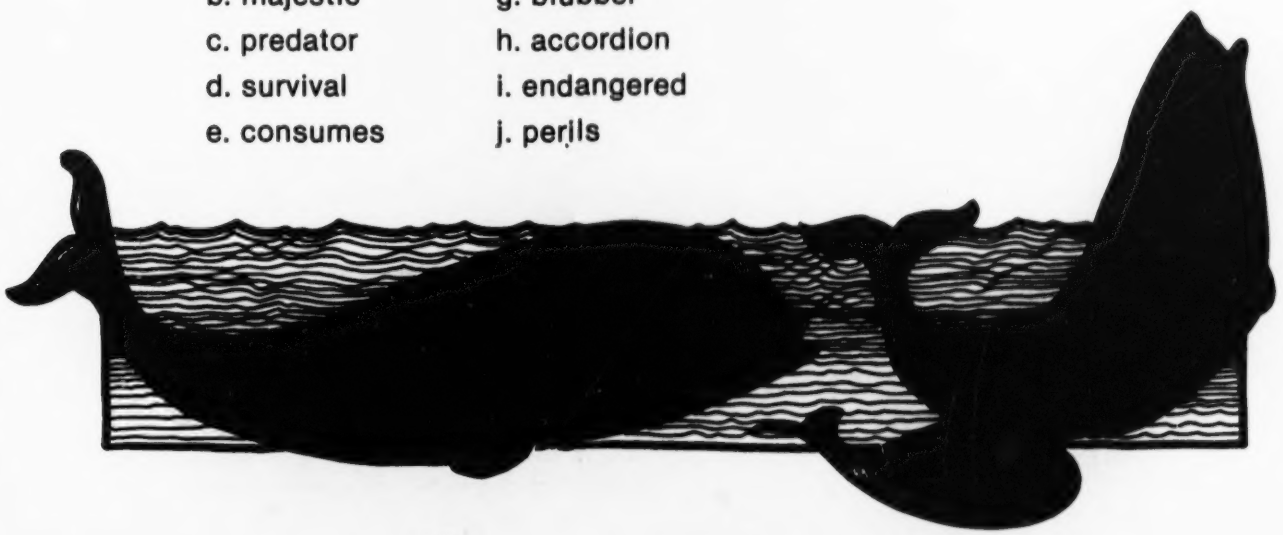
3. The future of the blue whale appears
   a. bright
   b. uncertain
   c. unfavorable

4. A word that means "able to bend easily" is
   a. supple
   b. pleated
   c. blubber

5. A synonym for the word "cold" is
   a. frigid
   b. Antarctic
   c. winter

6. Circle the accented syllable in each word below.

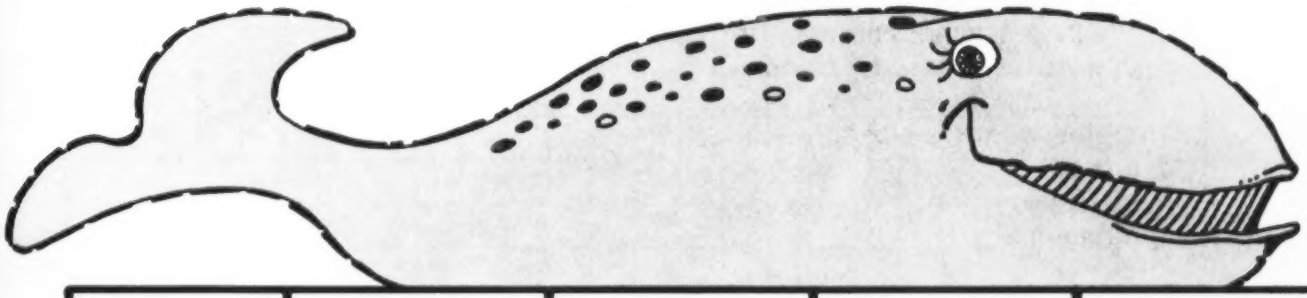
a. mammal	f. natural
b. majestic	g. blubber
c. predator	h. accordion
d. survival	i. endangered
e. consumes	j. perils



Name _____

A Whale of a Puzzle

Directions: The name of another endangered whale is hidden in the puzzle. To discover its name, cross out the spaces that contain words with two syllables and rearrange the remaining letters.



KRILL O	MAMMAL S	HARPOON T	SPECIES Y	CONSERVATION E
WHALER L	SURVIVAL A	BALEEN I	CREATURE M	ADAPTATION H
SWIMMER J	OCEAN C	HABITAT B	LARGEST F	SPOUTING R
PERILS P	WHALING C	PROTECTION W	PLEATED N	CONSUMES K
HEAVY G	OIL D	BLUBBER N	INSTINCT K	STOREHOUSE T

Another endangered whale is the _____

California Condor

The California condor, the largest soaring bird in North America, is a striking member of the vulture family. It has an orange or yellow bald head and a red neck. Gray, red, and purple feathers highlight the base of its neck. Its body and wings are black with white underneath. The condor is four feet long and weighs approximately twenty pounds. It has a nine-foot wingspan. It has been known to rise to altitudes of 20,000 feet where it can soar for an hour without flapping its wings.

The California condor once freely roamed from lower California to the state of Washington. Fossil remains have been found as far east as Florida. At one time the condor was thought to be extinct, but it was sighted again in Los Padres National Forest of California in 1947. Now limited to southern California, the condor is one of the rarest birds in America. Its death rate is currently faster than its birth rate.

There are several reasons why the condor became endangered. As man entered its breeding grounds, ranchers killed the bird, thinking their stock would be attacked. The condor, however, is not a predator. It eats only carrion, or dead meat. There is a shortage of carrion due to the sanitary practice of removing dead cattle. As highways were built near the condors' natural habitat, many birds feeding upon carrion were killed by automobiles. Others ingested poisonous chemicals. The slow rate of breeding has not allowed the condor population to significantly increase.

However, there is hope for the California condor. In 1983 two condor eggs were hatched in incubators at the San Diego Zoo. These were the first condors born in captivity. Hand puppets resembling adult condors were used to feed and raise the chicks. Since fewer than two dozen condors exist in the wild, it is hoped that condors can be raised in captivity to help increase their population.

Name _____

Skills Check

Directions: Circle the letters of the correct responses in items 1-4.

1. The California condor is
   a. a type of predator
   b. a type of vulture
   c. a type of carrion

2. The California condor
   a. freely roams throughout America
   b. soars at high altitudes
   c. exists in large numbers

3. In the selection the word "striking" means
   a. fighting
   b. hitting
   c. impressive

4. A word that means "a class of organisms with common qualities" is
   a. species
   b. member
   c. stock

5. The following words were used in the selection. Number the words in alphabetical order.

____soaring	____striking
____soars	____state
____southern	____species
____sighted	____several
____stock	____significantly
____since	____slow
____shortage	____sanitary

Name _____

Condor Trivia

Directions: During the California Gold Rush, prospectors used hollow condor quills in a special way. Read the clues and place your answers in the blanks to discover how the quills were used.

CLUES:

_____ 1. The first letter of the opposite of "cold"

_____ 2. The last letter of the opposite of "good-bye"

_____ 3. The first letter of the capital of Nebraska

_____ 4. The Roman numeral for 500

_____ 5. The first letter of the state east of Illinois

_____ 6. The third letter of the first month of the year

_____ 7. The first letter of the present tense of "went"

_____ 8. The first letter of the tallest four-footed animal

_____ 9. The second letter of the state north of New Mexico

_____ 10. The first letter of the deepest diving bird

_____ 11. The middle initial of President Eisenhower

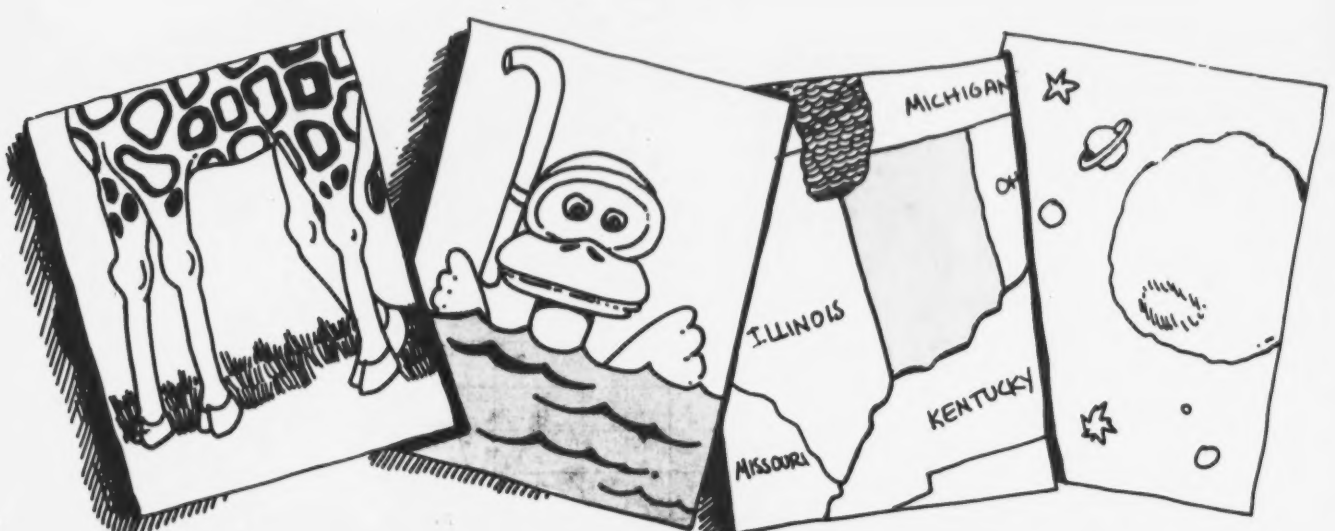
_____ 12. The first letter of the capital of Colorado

_____ 13. The second letter of the largest planet in our solar system

_____ 14. The third letter of the state north of Arkansas

_____ 15. The last letter of the opposite of "in"

ANSWER: _____



Everglade Kite

The Everglade kite, a member of the hawk family, is an endangered species of southern Florida. The rare bird of prey is limited to freshwater marshes in the vicinity of Lake Okeechobee and the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Florida. The Everglade kite has broad wings, long legs, and a hooked beak. The male is bluish-black with orange and white markings. The female is brown with white and orange underneath.

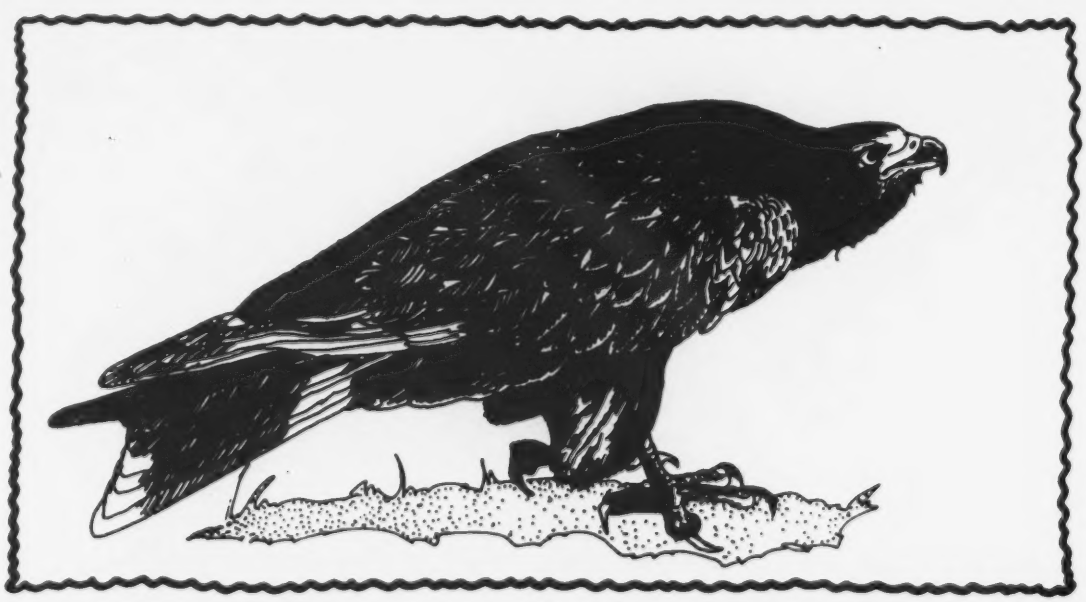
The Everglade kite is a specialized bird, feeding only on snails of the genus Pomacea. The apple snail is abundant in the watery marshes where the bird lives. The kite uses its beak to pry the snails from their shells.

The Everglade kite may be observed perching in a tree or gliding above the water, its bill pointing downward as it searches for snails. Sometimes groups of kites are seen roosting together.

The nest of the Everglade kite is made in a haphazard manner. It is constructed of sticks about one foot across and is found in marsh grass, reeds, or bushes. The female kite usually lays three or four eggs that hatch in approximately thirty days. The babies leave the nest about a month after hatching.

The main problem confronting the bird is a result of the destruction of its habitat by man and fire. Some of the marshes have been drained, destroying the apple snail's habitat. Since the snail is its only food, the bird has been seriously affected.

In 1965 only ten Everglade kites could be counted. The number has increased to more than one hundred. The situation remains serious as more of its habitat is lost through the development of human communities. However, environmental control measures are helping to insure adequate numbers of the apple snail for the Everglade kite. Small dams have been built to regulate water levels so the snail can continue to thrive. With an adequate food supply and federal protection, perhaps the Everglade kite can experience a significant population growth.



Name _____

Skills Check

Directions: Circle the letters of the correct responses in items 1-5.

1. The selection is about
   a. an endangered bird of southern Florida
   b. a snail of the Everglades
   c. environmental controls in the Florida Everglades

2. The Everglade kite belongs to the
   a. snail family
   b. hawk family
   c. fish family

3. The Everglade kite
   a. feeds on fish in the Everglades
   b. has a varied diet
   c. preys on snails

4. A word in the selection that means "restricted" is
   a. limited
   b. specialized
   c. affected

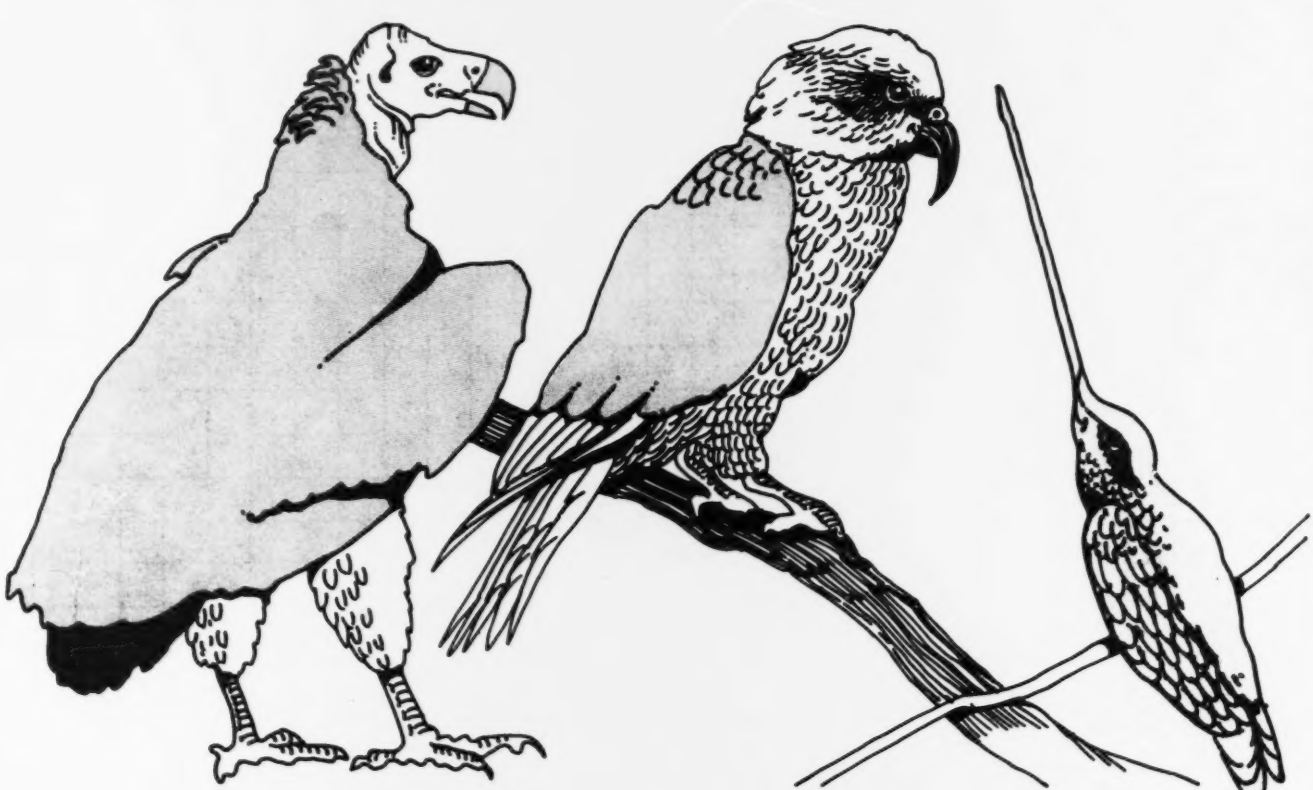
5. A synonym for the word "built" is
   a. hooked
   b. increased
   c. constructed

6. Write the root word for each of the words below.

a. southern _____	f. observed _____
b. watery _____	g. hunters _____
c. development _____	h. population _____
d. protection _____	i. situation _____
e. limited _____	j. growth _____

Bird Projects

1. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulates the practice of birdbanding in the U.S. Write a report on the practice of birdbanding.
2. Make a collage of North American birds.
3. Create a poster on different kinds of bird nests.
4. Write a report on John James Audubon.
5. Write a short booklet of interesting facts about birds.
6. Make a crossword puzzle about birds.
7. Write a report on your state bird.
8. Do research on an extinct bird such as the moa, passenger pigeon, great auk, Carolina parakeet, or Labrador duck. Can you determine why the species became extinct?
9. Hold a birdcalling contest. Can you imitate the call of a bird?
10. Research the different structures of bird bills. Make a poster to illustrate your findings.



Florida Manatee

The Florida manatee, or sea cow, is said to have inspired tales of mermaids. Its official name is Sirenia which means "siren" or "mermaid." The aquatic creature is so homely, however, that one could hardly mistake it for a mermaid.

The Florida manatee, a large sea mammal resembling a seal, has a wrinkled gray body with front flippers and bristles around the mouth. It has small eyes that are protected by an oily substance. It weighs about one thousand pounds and varies in length from eight to fifteen feet. It has no hind legs and no visible ears.

The manatee was once found along the coast from North Carolina to Texas, but today it is found only in southern Florida. It makes its home in shallow salt water where it is safe from large ocean predators.

The manatee is a vegetarian. It spends its time grazing on seaweeds and other aquatic plants that grow above the waterline. It eats at night, pushing the plants into its mouth with its flippers. An adult manatee consumes over one hundred pounds of vegetation daily. For a while, the manatee was used in Florida to eat water hyacinths that clogged the waterways. The practice was discontinued when some of the manatees were injured by motorboats.

The manatee spends its entire life in water. It uses its tail for locomotion. It slowly maneuvers itself through the water by pumping its tail up and down and turning with its flippers. It is able to swim underwater for four or five minutes, but it can hold its breath fifteen to twenty minutes while at rest. Its nostrils contain valves that block out water.

Hunters once captured the manatee for its hide, food, and fat. The fat was converted to oil through a melting process. Since the 1930's the hunting of manatees has been forbidden by the federal government.

Today one of the greatest hazards the manatee confronts is cold weather. Since it does not have blubber, it is not able to withstand very cold temperatures. It is frequently a victim of bronchial pneumonia and other respiratory diseases.

Name _____

Skills Check

Directions: Circle the letters of the correct responses in items 1-4.

1. The selection is about
   a. a sea mammal of southern Florida
   b. a type of seal
   c. a mythical mermaid

2. The Florida manatee is
   a. a vegetarian
   b. a predator
   c. a mermaid

3. A word that means "to face as a challenge" is
   a. withstand
   b. confront
   c. maneuver

4. A synonym for the word "changed" is
   a. inspired
   b. forbidden
   c. converted

5. Divide the following words into syllables. The first one has been done for you.

   a. manatee man/ a/ tee
   b. forbidden _____
   c. federal _____
   d. hazards _____
   e. frequently _____
   f. visible _____
   g. official _____
   h. resembling _____
   i. wrinkled _____
   j. process _____

Name _____

Manatee Trivia

Directions: When the manatee is in danger, it will not fight. To discover what it does, cross out the box before each false statement. Rearrange the letters in the remaining boxes to spell a word that tells what the manatee does when faced with danger.

S 1. The manatee has a thick layer of blubber.

R 2. The manatee weighs about one thousand pounds.

O 3. The manatee is a type of fish.

T 4. The manatee grazes on seaweed.

A 5. The manatee has large ears.

R 6. Cold weather is a hazard to the manatee.

T 7. The Florida manatee has no hind legs.

A 8. The manatee uses its tail to help move its body.

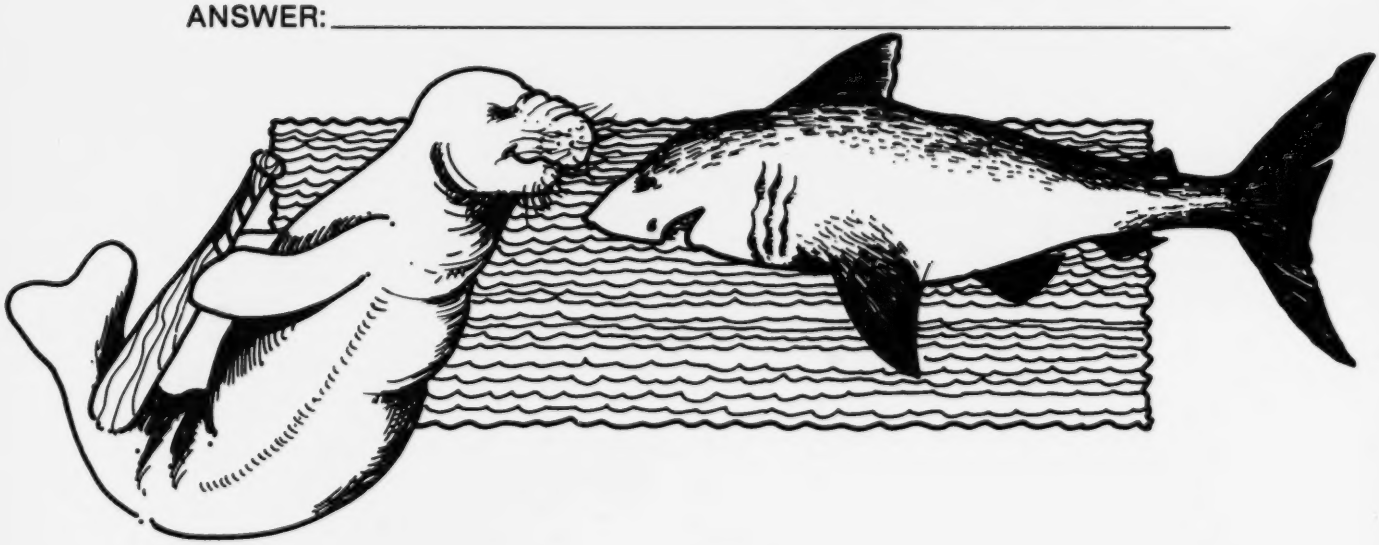
N 9. The manatee eats mainly in the daytime.

E 10. The manatee lives in salt water.

E 11. The manatee is a sea mammal.

R 12. The manatee is immune to pneumonia.

ANSWER: _____



Gray Bat

The gray bat, a flying mammal, is an endangered species limited to the southeastern United States. It is a migratory creature, making its home in caves in southern Illinois and Kentucky southward through Tennessee, Alabama, and northern Florida. It is also distributed from western Illinois and Missouri to Oklahoma and northern Arkansas. Most of the gray bat population hibernates in only nine caves during the winter.

The gray bat is a tiny creature weighing less than a half-ounce. Its skin is covered with fine gray fur. The wings have a thin layer of skin connected between spars that make them look like webbed feet. Its feet are adapted for clinging upside down, enabling it to hang securely while hibernating.

Living in colonies, the gray bat locates near bodies of water where sources of food are plentiful. It feeds on aquatic insects, moths, and beetles. By feeding on insects, the gray bat performs a beneficial service to man.

The body temperature of the gray bat, like that of other bats, changes rapidly. An active gray bat has a temperature between 100°F and 105°F. When weather is cold, the blood vessels in the wings constrict, permitting the wings to cool and conserving the body heat. When resting, the body temperature drops to that of the surrounding air. On cold days, it is difficult for the bat to fly until its wing tissues are about 80°F. When the bat's temperature drops, its heart rate, breathing, and other body functions are slowed.

A hibernating bat faces danger in the winter if the temperature drops below the freezing point. That is why it migrates to warmer areas for the winter months.

The population of the gray bat has decreased for several reasons. First, humans have disturbed the caves where the gray bat colonizes. Second, cold temperatures have been fatal to the mammal. Third, pesticides may have had an effect on the decline of the gray bat population. Because of these facts, the gray bat faces an uncertain future.

Name _____

Skills Check

Directions: Circle the letters of the correct responses in items 1-5.

1. The gray bat is
   a. an endangered amphibian
   b. an endangered mammal
   c. an endangered bird

2. The gray bat lives
   a. alone in caves
   b. in pairs in caves
   c. in colonies in caves

3. The gray bat
   a. migrates and hibernates
   b. migrates only
   c. hibernates only

4. A word that means "confined" is
   a. distributed
   b. slowed
   c. limited

5. The word "constrict" means
   a. to tighten
   b. to cool
   c. to enlarge

6. Read the phonetic spelling for each word below. Write the correct spelling in the blank.

   a. ak´-tiv _____

   b. ar´-ē-ə _____

   c. käl´-ə-nīz _____

   d. tī´-nē _____

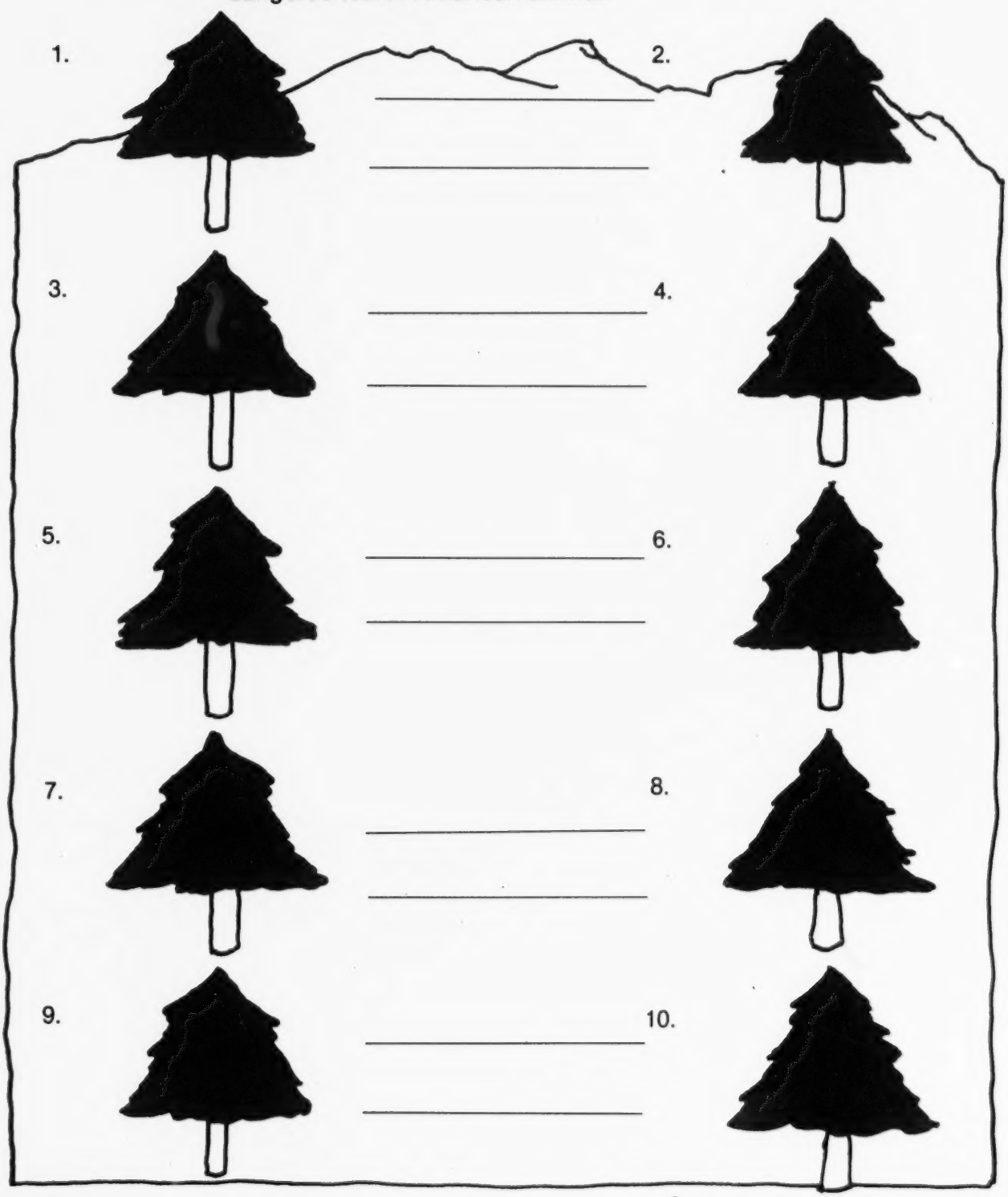
   e. kül´ _____

   f. fāt´l _____

Name _____

Endangered Animals Scrambler

Directions: Arrange the letters in each group to spell the name of an endangered North American animal.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

36

Green Sea Turtle

The green sea turtle is said to be the most valuable reptile in the world. It has become scarce because it has been hunted for a variety of products. Its flesh and eggs are both considered a delicacy. The flesh is sought for making turtle soup, and the flippers are used in making leather goods. The fat of the turtle is used in cooking oil and cosmetics.

The green sea turtle is a large turtle living along the Atlantic coast and in the Caribbean area. It is named for the green fat on its body. It has a brown and yellow shell that often reaches 3½ feet in length. The water helps the green turtle to support its weight of 200 to 500 pounds.

A female green sea turtle lays from 125 to 200 eggs every year or two, but the eggs are usually found by man or animals before being hatched. The eggs have a tough coating and are the size of golf balls. They are deposited by the female turtle in a hole on the beach and covered with sand. The sun incubates the eggs which hatch in a couple of months if left undisturbed.

As soon as a turtle emerges from its shell, it heads directly for the water. No one can explain how the young turtle knows to do this. However, by moving into the water, the turtle protects itself from many predators that inhabit the beaches.

An attempt has been made over the past twenty years to extend the range of the green sea turtle in the Caribbean area. Some of the turtles hatched on Tortuguero beach in Costa Rica have been caught and released on other beaches in the Caribbean. To some degree, this has helped, but more efforts are needed to help the green sea turtle survive.

The green sea turtle is commonly seen in zoos and aquariums, but it does not breed in captivity. In its natural habitat, the turtle stays at sea except when the female comes ashore to lay the eggs.

The population of the green sea turtle may continue to decline unless some of the beaches it frequents are preserved. Stricter attention should be given to enforcing laws protecting the turtle, and consideration should be given to developing more recovery programs.

Name _____

Skills Check

Directions: Circle the letters of the correct responses in items 1-4.

1. The green sea turtle is named for
   a. the color of its shell
   b. the color of its fat
   c. the color of its eggs

2. The green sea turtle's population declined because
   a. it was killed by disease
   b. its products were valuable to hunters
   c. it doesn't breed often

3. A word that means "decrease" is
   a. decline
   b. deposit
   c. preserve

4. A synonym for the word "effort" is
   a. support
   b. consideration
   c. attempt

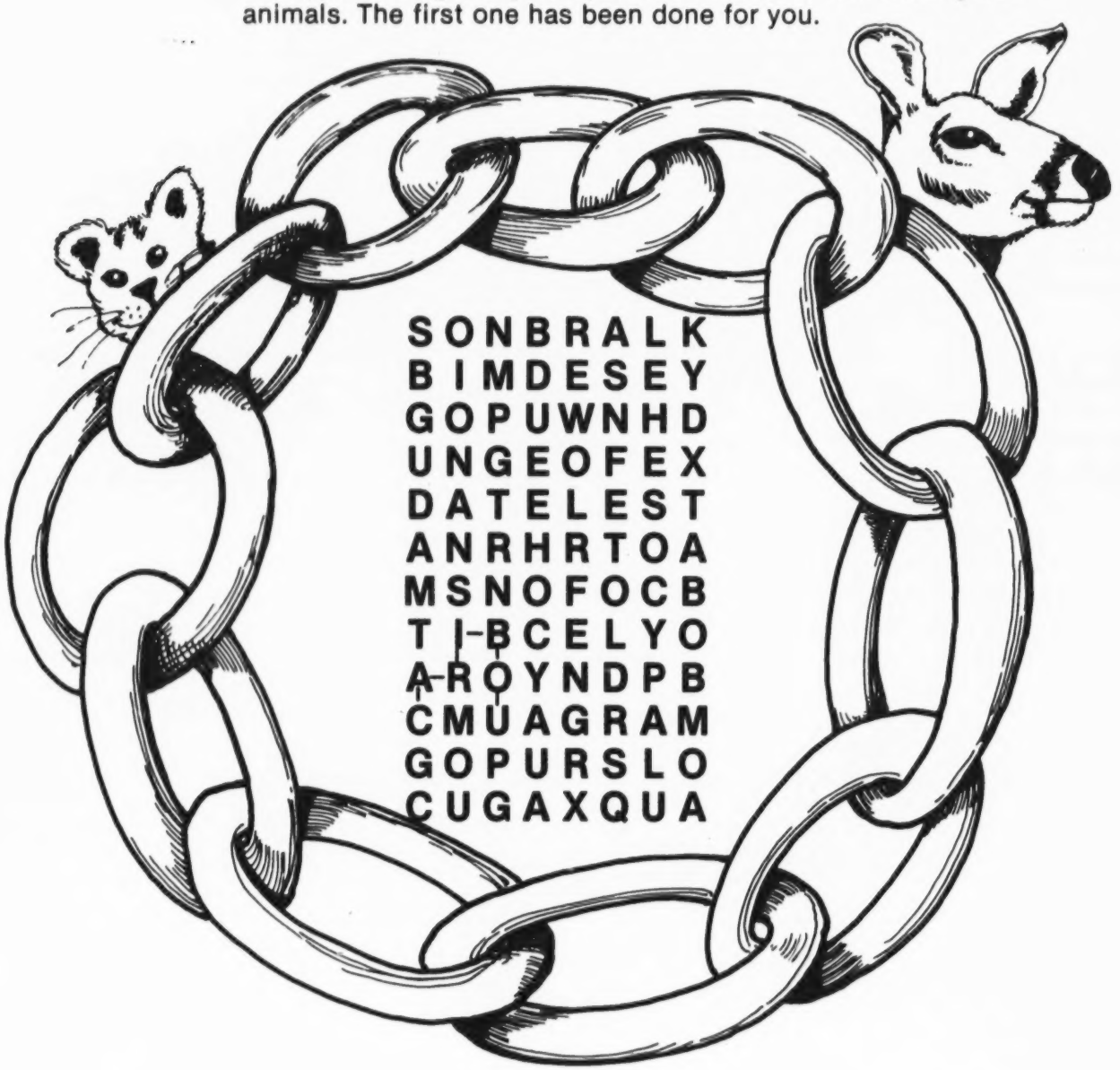
5. Place an X in the blank by each word that is correctly divided into syllables.

a. continue	_____con tin ue	_____cont in ue
b. attention	_____at tent ion	_____at ten tion
c. frequents	_____freq u ents	_____fre quents
d. delicacy	_____del i ca cy	_____del ic a cy
e. preserved	_____pre serv ed	_____pre served
f. beaches	_____beach es	_____bea ches
g. aquariums	_____a quar i ums	_____aqu ar i ums
h. declines	_____dec line	_____de cline

Name _____

Link-Ups

Directions: The names of ten endangered animals may be found among the letters below. Connect letters by moving horizontally, vertically, and diagonally to spell the names of ten endangered animals. The first one has been done for you.



WORD BANK

CARIBOU	DUGONG	MARGAY	OCELOT
BOBCAT	COUGAR	BISON	KEY DEER
MANATEE	RED WOLF		

Ivory-Billed Woodpecker

The ivory-billed woodpecker is such a rare bird that many people believe it is extinct. However, the Department of Interior continues to list it as endangered in its 1984 report of endangered and threatened species. Several times the ivory-billed woodpecker has been thought to be extinct, only to be rediscovered in a remote forest.

The ivory-billed woodpecker is the largest North American woodpecker. Its plumage is an iridescent bluish-black with white patches. The male has a scarlet crest while the female's crest is black. The feet of the woodpecker are well-adapted for climbing. The bird gets its name from its three-inch long, white bill.

The ivory-billed woodpecker inhabits old forests in the United States, nesting in holes in trees fifty to seventy feet above the ground. It does not migrate. Instead, it stays in the same habitat all year, nesting in the spring.

The diet of the ivory-billed woodpecker consists of insects, insect larvae, and grubs. It uses its long bill to tear off tree bark to reach its food. The ivory-billed woodpecker does not damage healthy trees. It searches for insects in dead and dying trees.

The main reason for the decline of the ivory-billed woodpecker is the cutting of old forests. Mature forests are critical to its survival. One pair of woodpeckers needs a minimum of six square miles of forest to provide food.

It is thought that the last remaining ivory-billed woodpeckers are in Louisiana. If the habitat of the ivory-billed woodpecker could be located, perhaps refuges could be established to help increase its numbers. Until its habitat is located, very little can be done to help to restore it to a more secure position.

Name _____

Skills Check

Directions: Circle the letters of the correct responses in items 1-4.

1. The ivory-billed woodpecker
   a. is a threatened species
   b. is an endangered species
   c. is an extinct species

2. The ivory-billed woodpecker
   a. migrates between old forests
   b. stays in the same place year round
   c. travels in a wide range

3. A word that means "a showy tuft on the head of a bird" is
   a. plumage
   b. patch
   c. crest

4. A word that means "a reduction in numbers" is
   a. decline
   b. rare
   c. extinct

5. Divide the following words into syllables. Then underline the syllable that receives the primary stress.

   a. woodpecker

   b. extinct

   c. iridescent

   d. scarlet

   e. healthy

   f. habitat

   g. established

   h. remaining

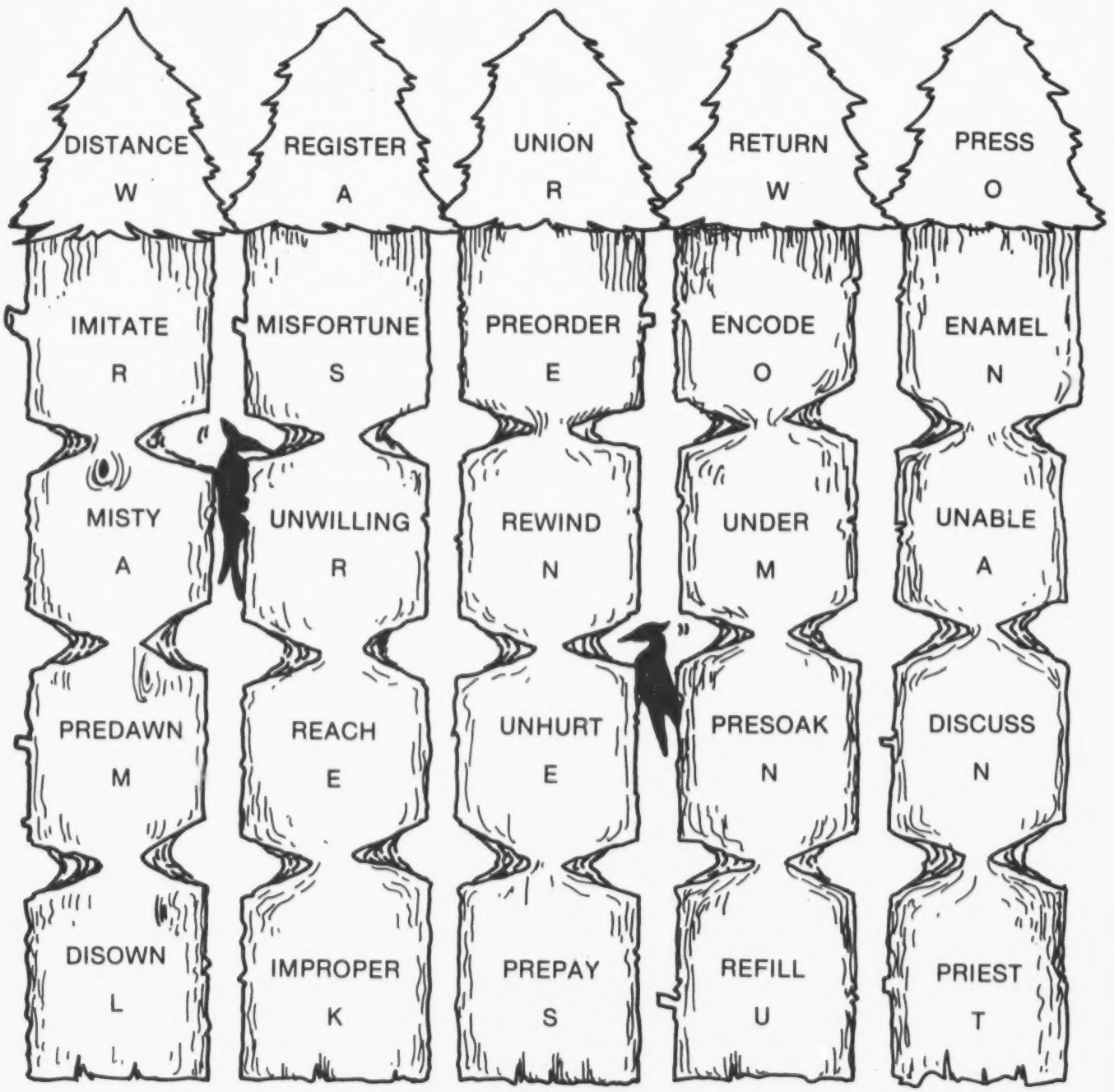
   i. decline

   j. minimum

Name _____

Woodpecker Trivia

Directions: During the Colonial days, Indians used the scalp of the ivory-billed woodpecker for a special purpose. Do you know how the scalp was used? Cross out each space below that contains a word with a prefix. The remaining letters will spell the answer.



ANSWER: _____ _____

Jaguar

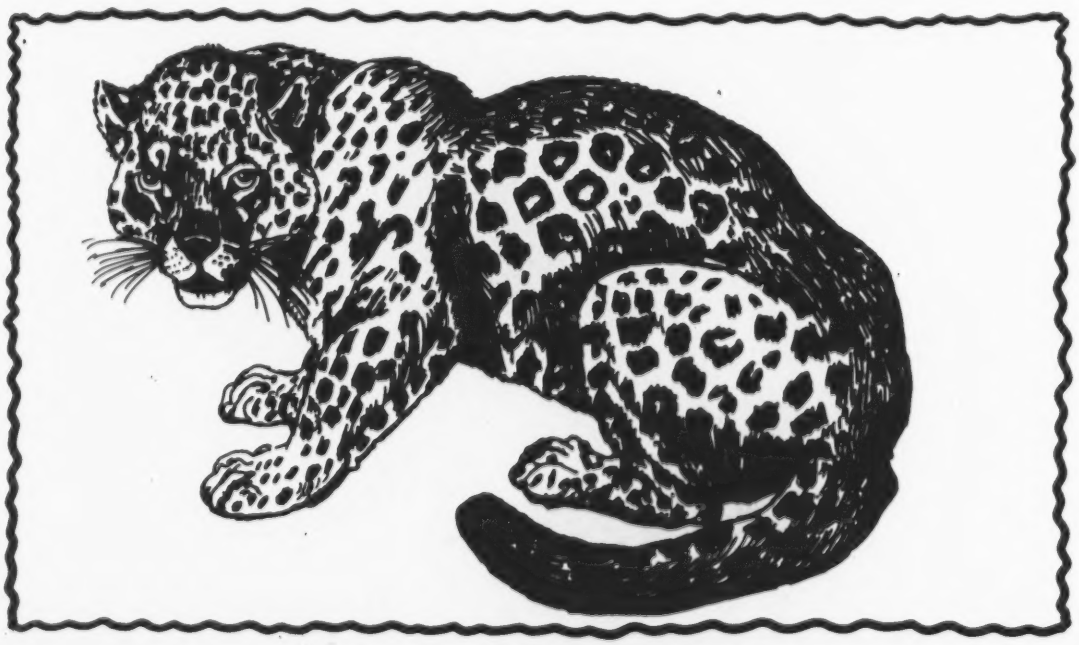
The largest wild cat in the western hemisphere is the jaguar. The powerful feline makes its home in Mexico, Central America, and parts of South America. The jaguar is the only cat in the western hemisphere that roars. Weighing 100 to 280 pounds, the agile jaguar measures from 5 to 8 feet long. The female is smaller than the male. The coloring of the jaguar varies from golden brown to yellow with black spots. The fur is short and stiff, resembling that of a leopard.

The jaguar inhabits forests, grasslands, and shrubby areas of Mexico, Central America, Brazil, and Argentina. A carnivorous animal, the jaguar hunts mainly at night. It often wanders for long distances in search of food. It preys on rodents, deer, fish, tapirs, turtles, birds, frogs, rabbits, and other creatures. It attacks its prey on the ground and from trees. It will even go into the water in search of a meal. Its excellent eyesight, acute hearing, sharp claws, and agile body enable it to be a skillful hunter.

Most of the time the jaguar is found alone. However, during mating season the jaguars are seen in pairs. In the spring the female jaguar may give birth to a litter of two to four cubs. The male provides food for the mother for several weeks after the cubs are born. The young jaguars usually remain with the mother for a couple of years before striking out on their own.

Known as *el tigre* in Spanish, the jaguar has a deep, hoarse cry. It produces a roar of five or six guttural tones. Its sound is different from other western cats.

Ranchers have reduced the jaguar population in an effort to protect their livestock. Now the population is critically low. It is difficult to protect the jaguar in the wild because it poses a threat to man and domestic wildlife. Often man destroys what he fears, and unless attitudes change, the jaguar may disappear completely.



Name _____

Skills Check

Directions: Circle the letters of the correct responses in items 1-4.

1. The selection is about
   a. an endangered carnivorous cat
   b. an endangered Spanish cat
   c. an endangered spotted leopard

2. The jaguar resembles a
   a. panther
   b. leopard
   c. tiger

3. A word that means "able to move easily and quickly" is
   a. acute
   b. agile
   c. powerful

4. In the selection the word "striking" means
   a. hitting
   b. causing
   c. taking a path

5. Write the entry word listed in your dictionary that follows each word below.

   a. hoarse _____

   b. threat _____

   c. hemisphere _____

   d. population _____

   e. livestock _____

6. Look up the following words in a dictionary. Write the guide words that you find for each.

   a. domestic _____

   b. area _____

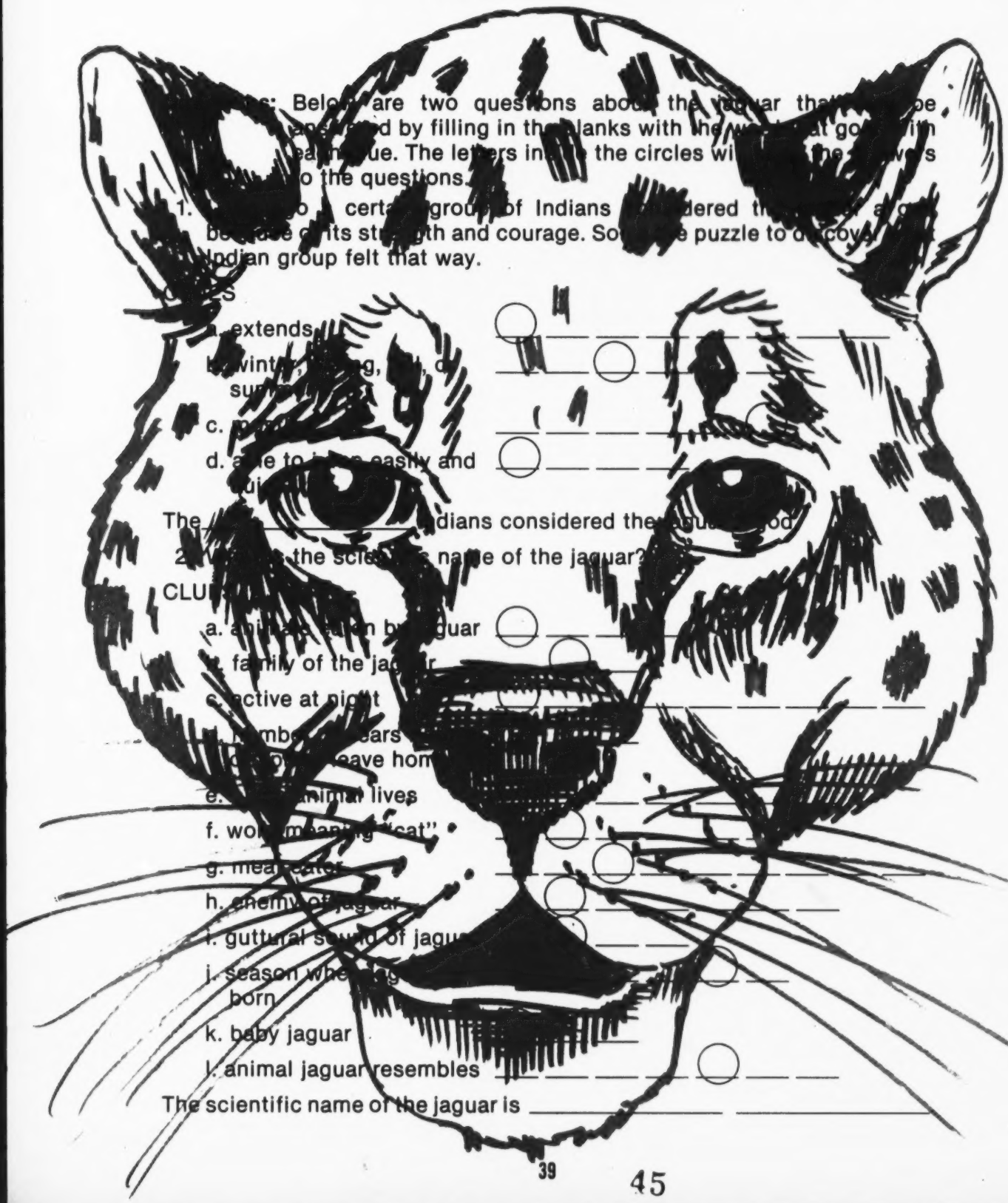
   c. difficult _____

   d. couple _____

   e. critical _____

Name _____

Jaguar Trivia



Directions: Below are two questions about the jaguar that can be answered by filling in the blanks with the words that go with the clues. Then write the letters in the circles with the same numbers as the questions.

1. The jaguar is to a certain group of Indians considered the animal god because of its strength and courage. Solve the puzzle to discover which Indian group felt that way.

CLUES

a. extends _____

b. winter, spring, summer, or fall _____

c. _____

d. able to move easily and quietly _____

The _____ Indians considered the jaguar a god.

2. What is the scientific name of the jaguar?

CLUES

a. animal often taken by jaguar _____

b. family of the jaguar _____

c. active at night _____

d. number of bears _____

e. leave home _____

e. animal lives _____

f. word meaning "cat" _____

g. meat eater _____

h. enemy of jaguar _____

i. guttural sound of jaguar _____

j. season when jaguars are born _____

k. baby jaguar _____

l. animal jaguar resembles _____

The scientific name of the jaguar is _____ _____

Kit Fox

The smallest member of the fox family, the kit fox, is an endangered species. Weighing only about four pounds, the kit fox is a slender animal with gray, sandy, or yellowish fur. It is about twenty-four inches long and has large, prominent ears that are able to detect the slightest sounds. It has a black-tipped tail and long legs.

The kit fox is a swift animal. Many people consider it to be the fastest of all foxes. Even though it can run up to 25 mph, it is easily captured. That is because it is not a very cautious creature. It will eat poisonous bait and investigate man-made traps set for other animals.

The kit fox is a nocturnal predator. It prowls about at night preying on rodents, mice, rabbits, snakes, lizards, and other small animals. Its enemies are man, dogs, coyotes, and eagles. It has been hunted for its fur, but its fur brings a much lower price than the fur of other foxes.

The kit fox lives in California, northern Nevada, Colorado, western Kansas, and southern Canada. It usually digs a burrow or uses one deserted by a prairie dog or badger. It makes several exits to use as havens of safety.

In the early spring, the female kit fox may have a litter of four to seven babies. Both parents care for the young foxes. By age three months, the young foxes are hunting with their parents. In autumn, the young foxes go their own way.

The kit fox became an endangered species because it was hunted in large numbers by man, it ate poisonous bait meant for coyotes, and its territory was converted for agricultural purposes. Recently, through stricter regulation of poisons and public awareness, the kit fox has begun to increase its population.

Name _____

Skills Check

Directions: Circle the letters of the correct responses in items 1-4.

1. The kit fox is
   a. the laziest of all foxes
   b. the largest of all foxes
   c. the smallest of all foxes

2. The kit fox looks for food
   a. at night
   b. in the morning
   c. in the afternoon

3. In the selection "prominent" means
   a. noticeable
   b. hidden
   c. huge

4. A synonym for "changed" is
   a. deserted
   b. captured
   c. converted

5. Write the entry word listed in your dictionary that follows each word below.

   a. species _____

   b. investigate _____

   c. predator _____

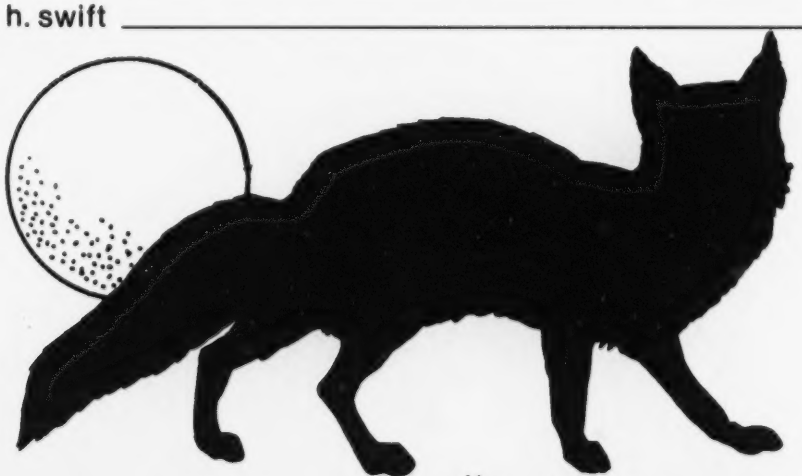
   d. cautious _____

   e. regulation _____

   f. burrow _____

   g. slender _____

   h. swift _____



Name _____

A Foxy Puzzle

Directions: Read each clue and write the synonym that was used for each in the story. The letters inside the circles will spell the nickname of the kit fox.

CLUES

1. vacated
2. slim
3. a kind or class
4. multiply
5. caught
6. careful
7. fast
8. noticeable
9. doorways

The kit fox's nickname is _____.

48

Ocelot

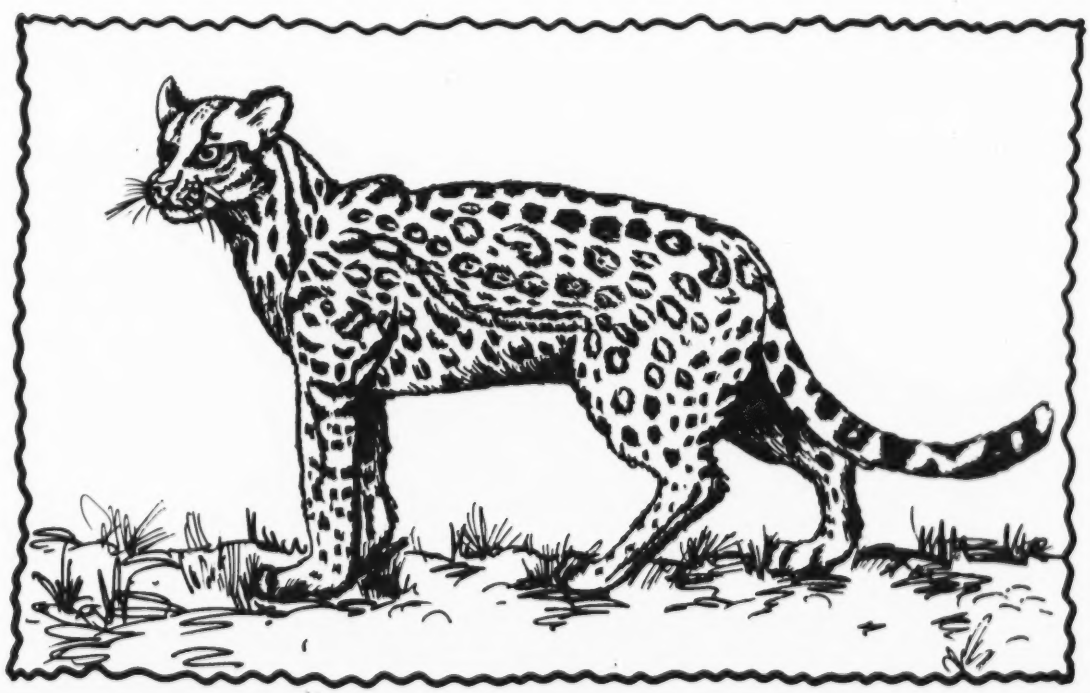
The ocelot, a carnivorous member of the cat family, is an endangered animal that ranges from Texas to Arizona and southward to Paraguay. Weighing from 20 to 40 pounds, the adult ocelot is 3 to 4 feet long and about 18 inches high at the shoulder. It has a pink nose and translucent eyes. Its eyesight and hearing are excellent. Like other cats, it has powerful jaws and sharp claws. Its fur varies from light gray to brown with white underneath. Dark bands of elongated spots cover the body, and two black stripes accent the face. Its beautiful coat serves as a useful camouflage in the wild.

An excellent climber, the ocelot inhabits wooded areas. It hides in brush thickets during the day. It hunts mainly at night, feeding upon birds, mammals, and reptiles. The ocelot often hunts in pairs, communicating with mewing sounds. It normally stalks its prey and attacks with a bite to the neck or head.

Before becoming an endangered species, the ocelot was enjoyed by some as a pet. It lives well in captivity and is easily tamed when captured at an early age.

The ocelot became an endangered animal when large numbers of its species were killed by ranchers attempting to protect their livestock. Others were hunted for their pelts. Some adult ocelots were killed when the young kittens were taken from their parents and sold as pets. Deforestation also reduced their natural habitat, causing a smaller population of ocelots.

Today federal protection is given to the ocelot. It is against the law to sell an ocelot or its pelt. Hunting is restricted in an effort to help the ocelot increase its population.



Name _____

Skills Check

Directions: Circle the letters of the correct responses in items 1-4.

1. The selection is about
   a. a carnivorous cat
   b. a domestic cat
   c. a translucent cat

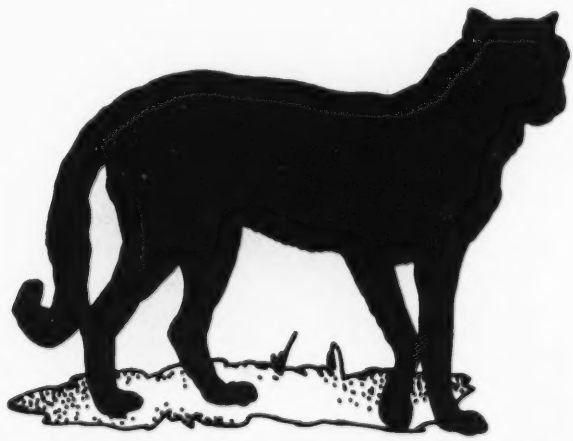
2. The ocelot is
   a. easily cared for in captivity
   b. difficult to raise in captivity
   c. found only in captivity

3. A word that means "to hunt in a sly manner" is
   a. stalk
   b. attack
   c. camouflage

4. In the selection the word "pelt" means
   a. to hurl or throw
   b. fur of an animal
   c. to strike a succession of blows

5. Each word below has been divided into syllables two different ways. Underline the correct syllabication for each word.

a. ocelot	oc e lot	oc el ot
b. carnivorous	carn iv o rous	car niv o rous
c. excellent	ex cell ent	ex cel lent
d. easily	eas i ly	ea si ly
e. family	fam i ly	fam il y
f. underneath	un der neath	und ern eath

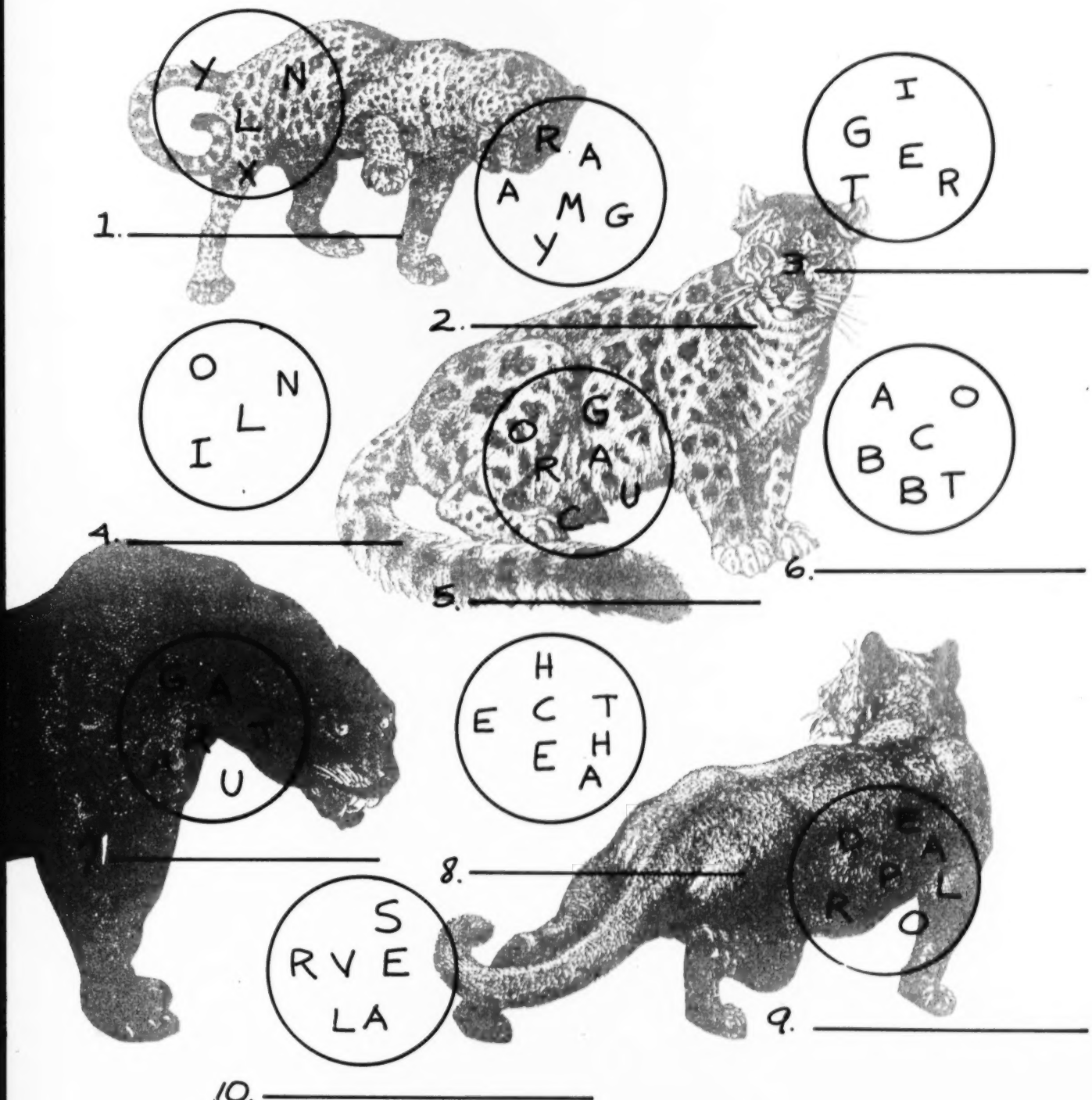


50

Name _____

Cat Rings

Directions: Arrange the letters inside each circle to spell the name of a kind of cat. Write the answer in the blank by each circle.



Peregrine Falcon

Known for its powerful flying abilities, the peregrine falcon, or duck hawk, is an endangered bird of prey. It is about the size of a crow and has a short neck and sturdy shoulders. Its feathers are blue-gray, and its head is black with patches of buff. Its beak has a short hook. The peregrine's nostrils are able to slow the effects of the wind's speed. That enables it to fly at speeds of 40 to 60 miles per hour and dive at speeds of 200 miles per hour.

The peregrine falcon feeds on birds, ducks, and small mammals. It often catches its prey while in flight. It even passes food to its mate while in the air. The female peregrine has been observed turning upside down in flight to accept prey from her mate.

The peregrine falcon makes its nest on mountain ledges. In the spring the female lays two to six chocolate-brown eggs. Both adults participate in incubating the eggs, but the female usually spends more time sitting on the eggs. The males will feed the females during this time. The period of incubation lasts about thirty days. At the end of that time, the young hatch and are cared for by the parents until they are able to fend for themselves.

In 1975 it was discovered that the peregrine was unable to produce normal eggshells because of two poisonous substances, DDT and DDE. The poisons had been used by man to destroy insect pests, but traces were left in the peregrine's food chain. This problem was causing a serious threat to the survival of the species.

Cornell University has been instrumental in helping the peregrine falcon make a comeback by hatching peregrine falcons in captivity. The young birds were released into the wild and fed by the Cornell team until they were able to fend for themselves. This process is called hacking. It offers hope for species that are close to extinction.

In 1984, twenty-one pairs of peregrine falcons were seen in the eastern U.S. as a result of the Cornell program. Scientists also discovered that eighteen nests contained eggs. This discovery offers new hope for the peregrine falcon.

Name _____

Skills Check

Directions: Circle the letters of the correct responses in items 1-4.

1. The peregrine falcon is a
   a. kind of duck
   b. relative of the crow
   c. bird of prey

2. The main reason the peregrine falcon in endangered is
   a. because of food shortages
   b. because of the effects of poisons in the food chain
   c. because it has been killed by predators

3. In the selection the word "instrumental" means
   a. acting as a means of achieving something
   b. performing a melody
   c. musical

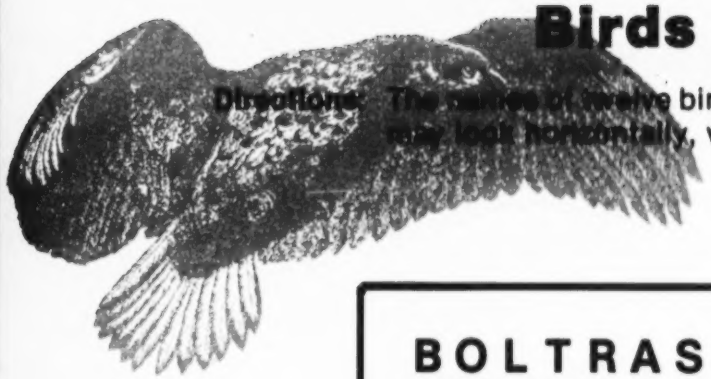
4. A word that means "able to get along by itself" is
   a. fend
   b. hacking
   c. increase

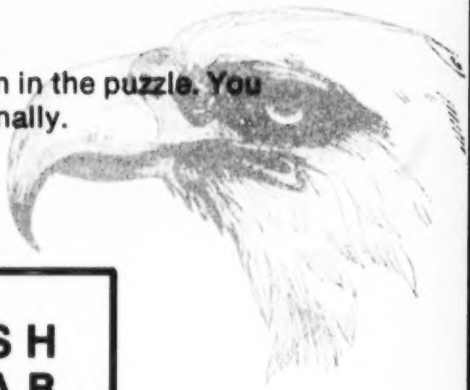
5. Circle the correct phonetic pronunciation of each word.

a. captivity	kap-tiv-ət-ē	kap-tiv-ət-ē
b. participate	pər-tis-ə-pāt	pər-tis-ə-păt
c. abilities	ə-bil-ət-ēz	ə-bil-ət-ēz
d. mammal	mam-əl	mam-əl
e. sturdy	stir-dē	stərd-ē
f. serious	sir-ē-əs	sē-ri-ō-əs
g. known	nŏn	nōn
h. survival	sər-vī-vəl	sər-vī-vəl
i. process	präs-es	präs-ēs
j. flight	flī-t	flīt

Name _____

Birds of Prey





Directions: The names of twelve birds of prey are hidden in the puzzle. You may look horizontally, vertically, and diagonally.

B O L T R A S D T U J B O S H
P S E N A F R L M N A R H A B
F Y W M H A W K J Y E D G O W
R A F O Z L M L O H G B A H B
O T X Z N C W N W Y E J L R Y
A R U E T O E K S O R Y D M S
D B F G B N S Y I E A G L E R
R A A Y S C A P D T E B T S V
U C O N D O R C R G E S N A S
N P C T E Y H W K E S T R E L
N B O V U L T U R E Y C G Y S
E Y M S O Z A [illegible] A W O O D
R D E V A Q [illegible] S E R I E
T O N S B I [illegible] N S E Y

WORD BANK

BUZZARD	CONDOR	EAGLE	FALCON
HAWK	JAEGER	KESTREL	KITE
OSPREY	OWL	VULTURE	ROADRUNNER

Red Wolf

The red wolf, or *Canis rufus*, is an endangered species that has become interbred with the coyote in some areas. The red wolf once made its home in the southern United States, but its range has become smaller and smaller. By 1970 the only pure red wolf population in the wild was located along the Gulf Coast in Texas and Louisiana. Some of the wolves were moved by recovery teams to other locations. The most promising location seems to be in South Carolina.

The red wolf is named for the coloration of its fur. The credit for naming the red wolf belongs to John James Audubon, the naturalist who illustrated the North American birds. Smaller than the gray wolf, it weighs from 45 to 70 pounds and has short, reddish fur mixed with touches of cinnamon, gray, or black. The belly is white or pink, and the tip of the tail is black.

Primarily a nocturnal animal, the red wolf preys on a variety of animals. It usually eats rabbits, rodents, deer, and carrion. It hunts a small area for a week to ten days and then moves on to a different area. It seldom ranges over a large territory unless food is scarce. It has been observed hunting in pairs, small groups, and large packs.

The red wolf makes its den in stream banks, hollow tree trunks, abandoned burrows or dens that it excavates itself. A typical wolf den is about eight feet long and three feet deep.

Like wolves of other species, the female red wolf gives birth to a litter of three to seven pups in the spring. The male wolf supplies the food for his family until the pups are able to leave the den. In a short time, both parents find it necessary to gather food for the growing pups and themselves.

The life expectancy of the red wolf is four years in the wild. In captivity the animal can expect to live fourteen or more years.

The red wolf presents a problem in national parks and refuges because it threatens other animals. The best chance of survival for the red wolf is in wilderness and swamp areas.

Name _____

Skills Check

Directions: Circle the letter of the correct response in items 1-5.

1. The selection is about an endangered animal that
   a. is a threat to other animals
   b. is harmless to other animals
   c. is indifferent to other animals

2. The red wolf was
   a. discovered by John James Audubon
   b. named by John James Audubon
   c. illustrated by John James Audubon

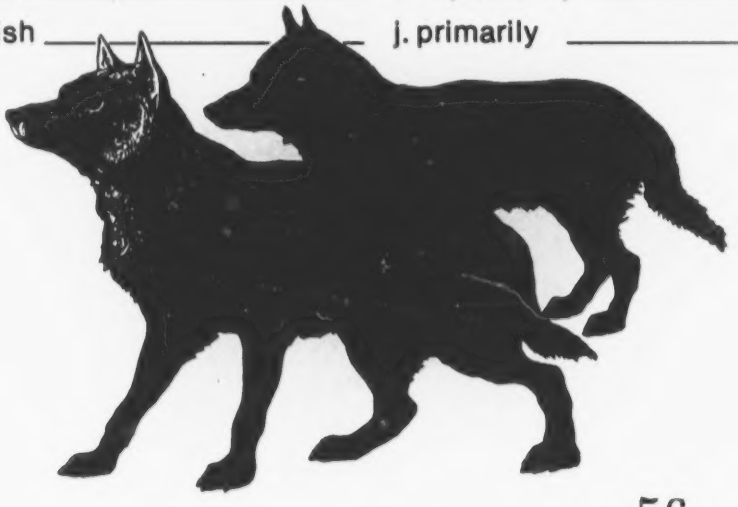
3. The red wolf has interbred with
   a. the gray wolf
   b. the fox
   c. the coyote

4. A word in the selection that means "recognition" is
   a. credit
   b. promising
   c. expectancy

5. A word that means "basically" is
   a. usually
   b. primarily
   c. typical

6. Write the root word for each word below. Circle the suffixes and prefixes.

   a. smaller _____ f. recovery _____
   b. endangered _____ g. different _____
   c. national _____ h. become _____
   d. survival _____ i. expectancy _____
   e. reddish _____ j. primarily _____



NAME _____

Searching for Carnivores

Directions: Carnivores are animals that feed on meat. They help control the number of herbivores, or plant-eating animals, and preserve the balance of nature. The names of twenty-two carnivores are hidden horizontally, vertically, and diagonally in the puzzle. Circle as many as you can find.

WORD BANK

MONGOOSE	BEAR	RACCOON	WEASEL	BADGER
SKUNK	OTTER	MINK	DOG	COYOTE
JACKAL	LION	TIGER	LEOPARD	JAGUAR
SEAL	FOX	CIVET	HYENA	WOLF
PUMA	OCELOT			

Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope

The pronghorn, the sole living member of the family *Antilocapridae*, is an endangered animal that exists only in North America. Although it has been called the American antelope, the pronghorn is not a true antelope. It is a reddish-brown and white animal with pronged or forked horns. It stands three feet high at the shoulder and weighs about one hundred pounds.

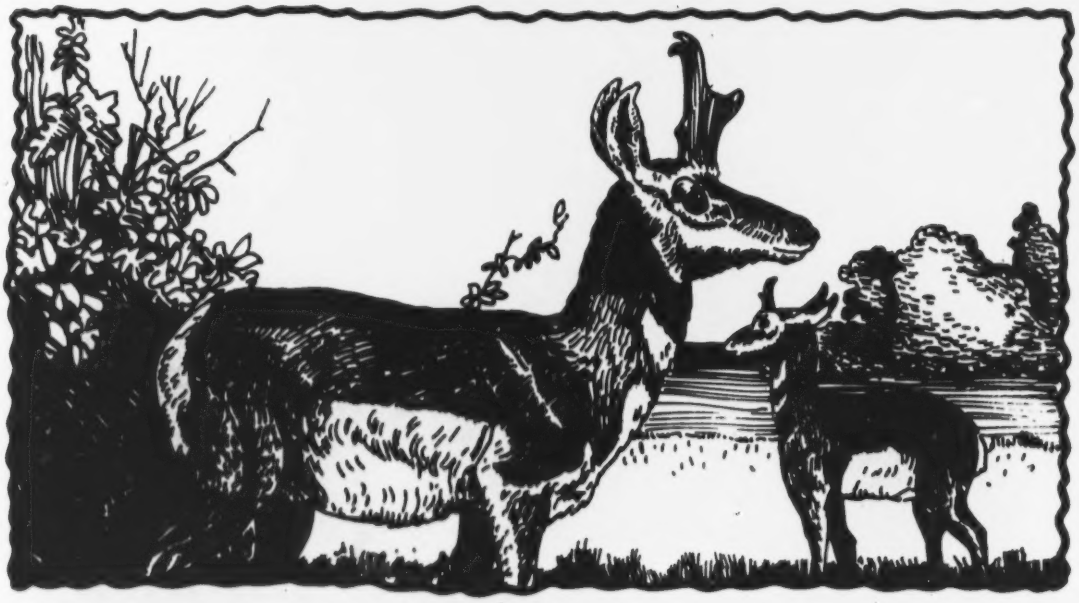
The pronghorn is the only mammal with genuine horns that are shed annually. Both male and female pronghorns shed hollow, black horns that cover bony cores. When the horns are shed, new horns are revealed. Some of the horns are 20 inches long, but those of the female are smaller. The female begins growing horns at the age of two years, while the horns of the male originate at the age of two months.

The pronghorn is known for its great speed. It is believed to be the fastest North American mammal. In fact, baby pronghorns only a few days old can run at speeds of 20 miles per hour. Adult pronghorns reach speeds of 50 to 60 miles per hour and run comfortably for long distances at speeds of 25 miles per hour.

The greatest enemies the pronghorn faces are the wolf and the coyote. Its keen eyes and sharp sense of smell help alert it to danger.

The pronghorn has a white patch of hair on its rump called a rosette that it uses to alert other pronghorns of danger. The hairs of the rosette stand erect, and the pronghorn runs for safety. When another pronghorn recognizes the warning signal, it also erects its rosette and flees.

Several factors have contributed to the reduction of the pronghorn population. Settlement of the Great Plains by man first drove the pronghorns into less desirable sagebrush country. The use of herbicidal sprays on sagebrush posed another threat to the animals. Others were killed by hunters for their meat. Water shortages reduced the population further. Today pronghorns are protected in national parks and wildlife refuges in the western United States.



Name _____

Skills Check

Directions: Circle the letters of the correct responses in items 1-5.

1. The selection is about
   a. the only member of the *Antilocapridae*
   b. an endangered antelope
   c. the true antelope

2. The pronghorn is known for
   a. its speed
   b. its color
   c. its appetite

3. When the pronghorn senses danger, it
   a. attacks
   b. runs
   c. howls

4 A synonym for the word "real" is
   a. genuine
   b. sole
   c. only

5. A word that means "exposed" is
   a. revealed
   b. shed
   c. protected

6. Write the correct word for each phonetic spelling.

   a. in-vād-id _____

   b. kəv-ər _____

   c. ref-yüj-iz _____

   d. trü _____

   e. kəm-fərt-ə-blē _____

   f. nash-ən-l _____

   g. nach-ə-rəl _____

   h. shōl-dər _____

Name _____

Animal Trivia Squares

Directions: Read the clue about each animal. Then arrange the letters inside each box to spell the name of the animal the clue identifies.

1. This animal can turn red, white, blue, and green.

T C
S O U
P O

_____

2. This animal is the largest of the hooved mammals.

B A O F
F L U

_____

3. This animal's name comes from a Spanish word meaning "lizard."

G O I
A L
L T R A

_____

4. This animal's fur retains less moisture than other furs.

N E E W
O L
R V I

_____

5. This animal's name means "siren" or "mermaid."

N M
A E
E T A

_____

6. This animal has been called the "engineer" of the animal kingdom.

V E
B
E R
A

_____

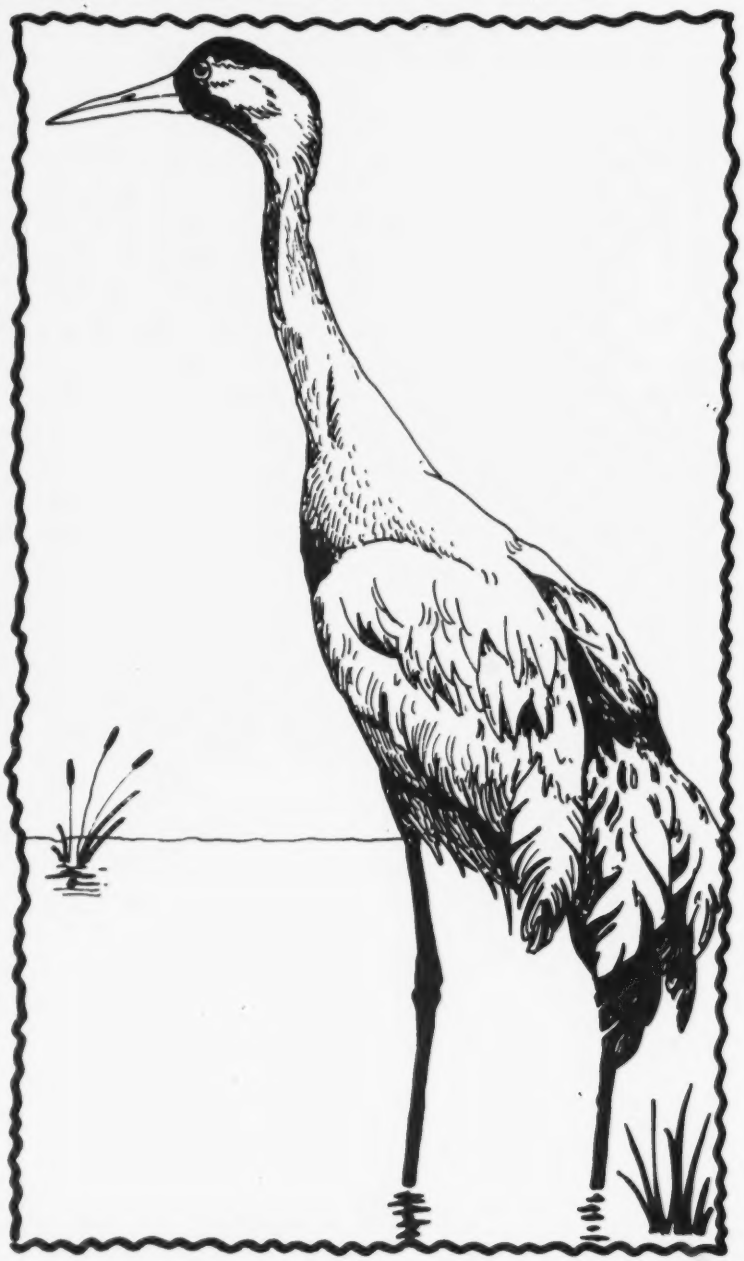
60

Whooping Crane

The tallest American bird, the whooping crane, is the official symbol representing endangered wildlife in the United States and Canada. This rare bird stands four to five feet tall on long, thin legs. Its body is pure white with black wing tips, a red head, a long bill, and dark markings between the eyes. Also called the whooper, the bird is known for the loud, bugle-like cry it makes during flight.

The whooping crane was once heavily hunted by man. In 1938 only fourteen whooping cranes were known to exist. Under federal protection, the whooping crane population slowly increased. By 1980 official reports indicated ninety-one birds were living in the wild. By 1984 the whooping crane population had increased to over one hundred.

In 1937 the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge was established in Texas to protect the cranes. Records and studies of the bird were kept. In 1954 it was discovered that the cranes fly to Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada. After breeding, the whooper parents and their young fly over 2500 miles to Aransas Wildlife Refuge, 75 miles north of Corpus Christi. The round trip is repeated annually.



In recent years Canadian and American scientists successfully bred whooping cranes in captivity. Some of the eggs were transported from nests in Wood Buffalo Park, Canada, to the Patuxent Wildlife Center in Laurel, Maryland. The eggs were incubated and raised. Some of the cranes matured and began producing young chicks.

In 1975 an experiment was started to help increase the whooping crane population. Eggs were gathered from the whooping cranes in Canada and placed in sandhill crane nests in Idaho. The sandhill cranes raised the young whoopers as their own. They taught them to migrate for the winter to Bosque Del Apache National Refuge in New Mexico. The success of the experiment yielded the beginning of a new flock of whooping cranes.

Name _____

Skills Check

Directions: Circle the letters of the correct responses in items 1-4.

1. The whooping crane is
   a. slowly increasing its population
   b. about to become extinct
   c. the rarest bird in the U.S. and Canada

2. The whooping crane is called
   a. the sandhill crane
   b. a whooper
   c. Aransas

3. In the selection the word "representing" means
   a. presenting a likeness of
   b. taking the place of
   c. serving as a symbol of

4. A word that means "brought into existence" is
   a. accounted
   b. established
   c. gathered

5. Read the phonetic spellings of certain words taken from the selection. Write the correct spelling of each.

   a. rāzd´ _____

   b. ə-fĭsh´-əl _____

   c. raər´ _____

   d. ik-sper´ə-mənt _____

   e. krān´ _____

   f. in-dān´-jərd _____

   g. bərd´ _____

   h. prə-tĕkt´ _____

   i. flü´ _____

   j. mī´-grāt _____

Name _____

Migratory Birds

Directions: The names of twenty-two different migratory birds are hidden in the puzzle below. You may look horizontally, vertically, and diagonally. Circle your findings.

B E I R A F G O N M F Y L X B X N O J H D B U E X
P K Q H X V G J N V R S C L S K C S E U F F B Y H
B O B O L I N K T K N A A J E P Z F Z M I Q L L T
Y F G U I V J A C B G N V S W I F T V M X N S O Z
O D W A E A D U T K O U W E B D J N L I M P A K Q
Q W S V N K C H C R O M Y F N F X N F N W W J T M
S O U W Y N H R E X S V T M Y A Y V S G Q Y I M B
E Y O P A S U V I R E X C D S S R B J B N N B B Z
O G V Z U L O S A N D E R L I N G F Q I X O H N W
F E K R U L L V Z T R O O R O R Z R H R S V Y L E
S I H K P H G O R T E K W Q A U R O A D R B O K O
A T Y T J X V E W B K R A K A I U D G C L F I F E
D M S E Z Z S M P E V H N S P N L W R L K R I Y S
I M J J A Y F E X S N F X S A W H E Q E H L N H D
D T A T Y H B D P N R X Z R D L P B Y S A E E E O
J R Q N Y T B I H Y S I R L R I F L R M R G W F L
K A J C W V W Q W L Y Z Y K P R Q U H W B K O Y I
Y Q O G V V D E O R W V I D H O K E X E B K B Z M
B V N W L V X M X Q G O N Z Q B L B C W G E D S B
L O O N Y W D E R M S A O P Y I S I N U R L K Y E
A G W F C P T C E S S G C D K N A R D F C Y K Y N
W H X X H S L D R K R W U K C M N D W R B K D X G
L D W O Q J S N V O M X F Y B O N V I H H I O H P
M U I T E S P U W D L V D Q G X C M Y Y R U D O G
A E Y N R W S T O L B P G X T A B K I T W N W U H

WORD BANK

BOBOLINK	SANDPIPER	RAVEN	SWALLOW	GOOSE
PLOVER	SANDERLING	LOON	BLUEBIRD	WOODCOCK
HUMMINGBIRD	GRACKLE	CROW	SHRIKE	ROBIN
THRUSH	JAY	WREN	RAIL	CUCKOO
SWIFT	TERN			

Answer Key

Page 5: 1. a 2. b 3. b 4. c 5. a. tion, extinct b. tion, populate c. ed, consider d. tion, protect e. al, nation f. ing, increase g. ity, captive h. ing, introduce i. ed, concern j. y, recover k. ing, raise l.ed, list m. ing, help n. ed, cite o. ly, serious p. ing, near q. ing, become r. able, suit

Page 8: 1. b 2. a 3. a 4. c 5. Each list should include the following possibilities: a. sharp, short, since b. prevents, protection, protrude c. legal, length, list d. thinner, this e. species, stomach, stones f. comeback, contractions, consists

Page 9: 1875

Page 11: 1. a 2. a 3. c 4. b 5. a cal ci um b. chem i cal c. snatch es d. at ten tion e. pes ti cide f. fed er al g. con spic u ous h. con ti nen tal

Page 12: Down Clues: 1. talons 2. fish 3. interior 4. osprey 5. eaglet 6. feathers 7. yellow
Across Clues: 8. aerie 9. sticks 10. threatened 11. white 12. hooked 13. quarter

Page 14: 1. a 2. b 3. c 4. c 5. a feet b. ferret c. feed g. face i. existence

Page 17: 1. b 2. c 3. b 4. a 5. a 6. a mammal b. majestic c. predator d. survival e. consumes f. natural g. blubber h. accordion i. endangered j. perils

Page 18: Cross out: mammal, harpoon, species, whaler, baleen, creature, swimmer, ocean,largest, spouting, perils, whaling, pleated, consumes, heavy, blubber, instinct, storehouse. Answer: BOWHEAD

Page 20: 1. b 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. Column 1: 8, 9, 10, 4, 13, 6, 3 Column 2: 14, 12, 11, 2, 5, 7, 1

Page 21: HOLDING GOLD DUST

Page 23: 1. a 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. c 6. a. south b. water c. develop d. protect e. limit f. observe g. hunt h. populate i. situate j. grow

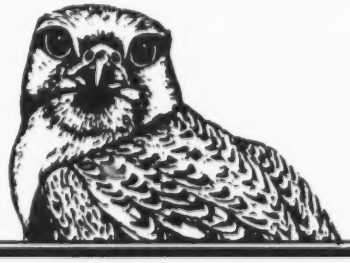
Page 26: 1. a 2. a 3. b 4. c 5. b. for/bid/den c. fed/er/al d. haz/ards e. fre/quent/ly f. vis/i/ble g. of/fi/cial h. re/sem/bling i. wrin/kled J. proc/ess

Page 27: Cross out the letters before number 1, 3, 5, 9, and 12. RETREAT

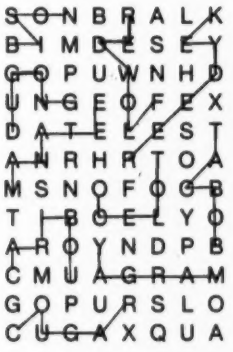
Page 29: 1. b 2. c 3. a 4. c 5. a. 6. a active b. area c. colonize d. tiny e. cool f. fatal

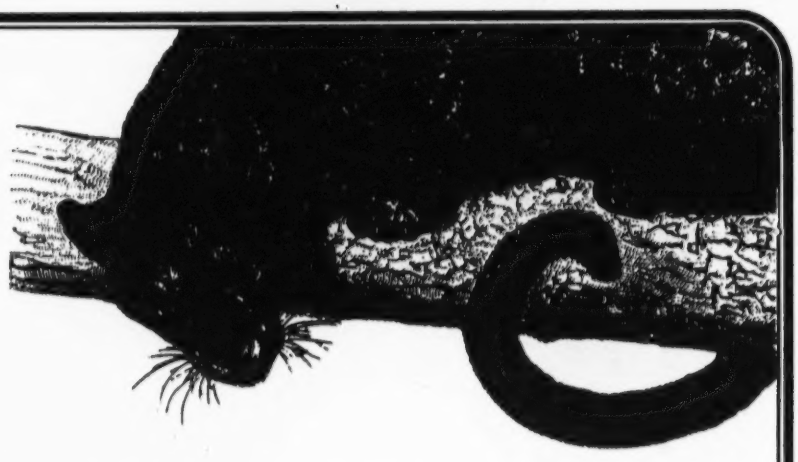
Page 30: 1. bobcat 2. ocelot 3. jaguar 4. ferret 5. cougar 6. marmot 7. caribou 8. manatee 9. key deer 10. red wolf

Page 32: 1. b 2. b 3. a 4. c 5. a. con tin ue b. at ten tion c. fre quents d. del i ca cy e. pre served f. beach es g. a quar i ums h. de cline



Page 33: Link-Ups





Page 35: 1. b 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. a. wood peck er b. ex tinct c. ir i des cent d. scar let e. health y f. hab i tat g. es tab lished h. re main ing i. de cline j. min i mum

Page 36: Cross out: return, misfortune, preorder, encode, unwilling, rewind, unable, predawn, unhurt, presoak, disown, improper, prepay, refill. Answer: WAR ORNAMENT

Page 38: 1. a 2. b 3. b 4. c 5.—6. Answers vary.

Page 39: 1. a. measures b. season c. mainly d. agile. Answer: MAYA
2. a. prey b. cat c. nocturnal d. two e. habitat f. feline g. carnivore h. rancher i. roar j. spring k. cub l. leopard. Answer: PANTHERA ONCA

Page 41: 1. c 2. a 3. a 4. c 5. Answers vary.

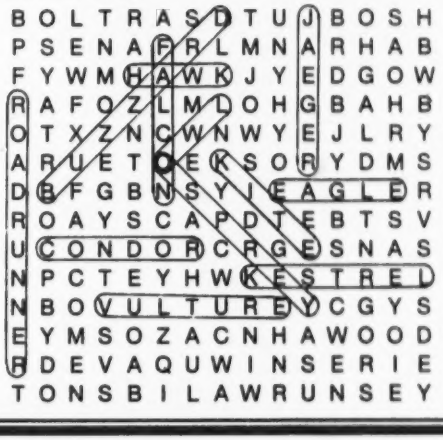
Page 42: 1. deserted 2. slender 3. species 4. increase 5. captured 6. cautious 7. swift 8. prominent 9. exits. Answer: DESERT FOX

Page 44: 1. a 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. a. oc e lot b. car niv o rous c. ex cel lent d. eas i ly e. fam i ly f. un der neath

Page 45: 1. lynx 2. margay 3. tiger 4. lion 5. cougar 6. bobcat 7. jaguar 8. cheetah 9. leopard 10. serval

Page 47: 1. c 2. b 3. a 4. a 5. a. kap-tiv-ət-ē b. pər-tis-ə-pāt c. ə-bil-ət-ēz d. mam-əl e. stərd-ē f. sir-ē-əs g. nōn-h. sər-vī-vəl i. präs-es j. flīt

Page 48: Bird of Prey


B O L T R A S D T U J B O S H
P S E N A F R L M N A R H A B
F Y W M H A W K J Y E D G O W
R A F O Z L M L O H G B A H B
O T X Z N C W N W Y E J L R Y
A R U E T O E K S O R Y D M S
D B F G B N S Y I E A G L E R
R O A Y S C A P D T E B T S V
U C O N D O R C R G E S N A S
N P C T E Y H W K E S T R E L
N B O V U L T U R E Y C G Y S
E Y M S O Z A C N H A W O O D
R D E V A Q U W I N S E R I E
T O N S B I L A W R U N S E Y

Page 50: 1. a 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. b 6. a. smaller small b. endangered danger c. national nation d. survival survive e. reddish red f. recovery cover g. different differ h. become come i. expectancy expect j. primarily primary (Rule: If an adjective ends in y preceded by a consonant, change y to i before adding the suffix ly.)

Page 51: Search for Carnivores

S T E M Y P O N L I T U V E M D P Q U S
E A R O N A C B D E H Y E N A T M L N H
S K U N K T O N E Y B A O L O S J Y O P
A B L G H J T R E A N S T Y A T I A B T
N C B O R Z A H X O R S T W O B T K A R
Y A N O X L O C I C H O E Z H E N H D E
T P Y S P U M A K R L W R S V F H I G B
I L O E J H P H W A I P H I T O W L E A
G M W L T N I G E R L V C A V X E A R B
E N H N O C H S A W A H C O D S A F C V
R T C I F G Z U W J O C E L O T S D H N
T O L B A S G N E A M L T Y G A E A E Y
D N Z T R A C C O O N I F R X H L G S A
J T A N J O W B L T A U N O U T F A O L
I L E O P A R D A L Q R O K L K H L M C
B W A N L E P R O L O N S T E N T R E O
O N R O S J C O Y O T E N E S T Y O N K

Page 53: 1. a 2. a 3. b 4. a 5. a 6. a invaded b. cover c. refuges d. true e. comfortably f. national g. natural h. shoulder

Page 54: 1. octopus 2. buffalo 3. alligator 4. wolverine 5. manatee 6. beaver

Page 56: 1. a 2. b 3. c 4. b 5. a. raised b. official c. rare d. experiment e. crane f. endangered g. bird h. protect i. flew h. migrate

Page 57: Migratory Birds

B E I R A F G O N M F Y L X B X N O J H X D B U E
P K O H X V G J N V R S C L S K C S E U F F B Y H
B O B O L I N K T K N A A J E P Z F Z M I Q L L T
Y F G U I V J A C B G N V S W I F T V M X N S O Z
O D W A E A D U T K O U W E B D J N L I M P A K Q
Q W S V N K C H C R O M Y F N F X N F N W W J T M
S O U W Y N H R E X S V T M Y A Y V S G Q Y I M B
E Y O P A S U V I R E X C D S S R B J B N N B N Z
O G V Z U L O S A N D E R L I N G F Q I X O H N W
F E K R U L L V Z T R O O R O R Q R H R S V Y L E
S I H K P H G O R T E K W Q A U R O A D R B O K Q
A T Y T J X V E W B K R A K A I U D G C L F I F E
D M S E Z Z S M P E V H N S P N L W R L K R I Y S
I M J J A Y F E X S N F X S A W H E Q E H L N H D
D T A T Y H B D P N R X Z R D L P B Y S A E E E O
J R Q N Y T B I H Y S I R L R I F L R M R G W F L
K A J C W V W Q W L Y Z Y K P R Q U H W B K Q Y I
Y Q O G V V D E O R W V I D H O K E X E B K B Z M
B V N W L V X M X Q G O N Z Q B L B C W G E D S B
L O O N Y W D E R M S A O P Y I S I N U R L K Y E
A G W F C P T C E S S G C D K N A R D F C Y K Y N
W H X X H S L D R K R W U K C M N D W R B K D X G
L D W O Q J S N V O M X F Y B O N V I H H I O H P
M U I T E S P U W D L V D O G X C M Y Y R U D O G
A E Y N R W S T O L B P G X T A B K I T W N W U H

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